JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
IDENTIFICATION FORM

Released under the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (44 USC 2107 Note). Case#:NW 53216 Date: 06-13-2017

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY :	CIA
RECORD NUMBER :	104-10433-10211
RECORD SERIES :	JFK
AGENCY FILE NUMBER :	RUSS HOLMES WORK FILE

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR :	CIA
FROM :	
TO :	
TITLE :	KING/RAY FOIA.
DATE :	00/00/
PAGES :	252
SUBJECTS :	NBR
DOCUMENT TYPE :	PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION :	SECRET
RESTRICTIONS :	
CURRENT STATUS :	POSTPONED IN FULL
DATE OF LAST REVIEW :	12/22/98
OPENING CRITERIA :	
COMMENTS :	JFK-RH19:F7 1998.12.22.14:21:05:403108: NOT BELIEVED RELEVANT. (NBR)

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

1P3: doc #1

Released in entirety

223 overt items

Ray / King

76-382

CA77.1997

Ref: IPS Response to
Requester

L/ur

Documents B-2 Through

B-223

Released in
entirety

A

☐ UNCLASSIFIED ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ SECRET

PRIORITY HANDLING — FOIA REQUEST

SUBJECT: (Optional)
FOIA Appeal - Harold Weisberg, for information about Martin Luther King, Jr. and James Earl Ray

REQUEST NUMBER
IPS F 76-382

FROM:
H.G. Bean
Assistant for Information, DDA
7 D 02 HQ

EXTENSION
5117

DATE SENT
15 AUG 1977

SUSPENSE DATE

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS
1. Mr. Wells, DDO THRU: Mr. Addona, DDO/PICG 1 D 4125 HQ HT-1			
2.			
3. Mr. Dirks, DDS&T THRU: Mr. Redmond, DDS&T/FIO 6 E 56 HQ BY-1			
4.			
5. Mr. Stevens, DDI THRU: Mr. Lawler, DDI/FIO 2 E 6104 HQ FX-4			
6.			
7. Mr. Blake, DDA 7 D 26 HQ BX-4			
8.			
9. Mr. Ziebell, OGC 6-D-0120 - Hqs. BX-5			
10.			
11. Mr. Biddiscombe, OS/IRG GE 31 HQ FX-1			
12.			

RETURN TO:

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

Attached is an FOIA Appeal with a due date of 19 Aug 77.

In accordance with IPS procedures, the Chairman has assigned action for this appeal as follows:

Mr. Wells, Mr. Dirks, Mr. Stevens and Mr. Blake

Designated Action Member(s) should contact me within 48 hours should there be any objection to the case assignment.

The OGC attorney assigned to advise you or your Appeals Officer regarding this case is:

Mr. Ziebell

The Action Member or Appeals Officer is requested to ensure that staff work is completed and the case is ready for presentation (should such be required) at the 11 Aug 77 meeting.

HGBean
H.G. Bean

PRIORITY HANDLING — FOIA REQUEST

FORM 3789 ☐ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

LOG (F)

[Acknowledgement drafted]

JAMES H. LESAR
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1231 FOURTH STREET, S. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20024

TELEPHONE (202) 484-6023

F 76-382

June 11, 1976

OS
DDO
CRS ?
OGC ?

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Mr. Gene F. Wilson
Freedom of Information Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Wilson:

On behalf of Mr. Harold Weisberg of Frederick, Maryland, I request access to the following:

1. All records pertaining to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

2. All records pertaining to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

3. All records pertaining to James Earl Ray, under whatever name or alias.

4. All records on any alleged or suspected accomplice or associate in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

5. All collections of published materials on the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

6. All analyses, commentaries, reports, or investigations on or in any way pertaining to any published materials on the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. or the authors of said materials.

7. All records, letters, cables, memorandums, routing slips, photographs, tape recordings, receipts, sketches, computer printouts or any other form of data pertaining to or in any way relevant to the foregoing requests for information, regardless of source or origin.

This request is made under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. §552, as amended by Public Law 93-502.

JUN 16 8 [illegible] AM '76

Sincerely yours,

James H. Lesar
James H. Lesar

21 JUN 1976

James H. Lesar, Esquire
1231 Fourth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Lesar:

This acknowledges receipt of your letter of 11 June 1976 on behalf of Mr. Harold Weisberg requesting, under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, access to any CIA records dealing with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and/or James Earl Ray and any of his alleged or suspected accomplices in Dr. King's assassination.

I shall arrange for a search of CIA files and shall be in further communication with you once the search has been completed and any records found reviewed for releasability under the Act.

As you may know, the heavy volume of Freedom of Information requests received by the Agency has resulted in processing backlogs. If we do not respond within the 10 working days stipulated by the Act, it is your right to construe this as a denial, subject to appeal to the CIA Information Review Committee. It would seem more reasonable, however, for us to continue processing your request and to respond as soon as feasible. Any denials of records could be appealed at that time. Unless we hear from you otherwise, we will assume that this is agreeable to you and proceed on this basis.

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of our fee schedule. If the charges seem likely to be considerable, I shall provide you with an estimate and perhaps require a partial payment in advance of processing.

Sincerely,

/s/GFW

Gene F. Wilson
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosure: as stated
IPS/CES/cb/21 Jun 76Distribution:
Orig - Addressee
1 - IPS Chrono
1 - IPS (F-76-382)

30 NOV 1976

IPS/DGV/cr/29 Nov 76
Distribution:
Orig. - Addressee
1 - OGC (Strickland)
1 - DDO/PICG
1 - OS/IRG
1 - AI/DDA
① - IPS (Weisberg,F-76-332) SPR
1 - IPS (Weisberg Correspondence)
1 - IPS Chrono

James H. Lesar, Esquire
1231 Fourth Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Lesar:

You will recall that our letter of 21 June 1976 acknowledged receipt of your letter on behalf of Mr. Harold Weisberg requesting, under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, access to any CIA records dealing with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to those dealing with James Earl Ray and any of his alleged or suspected accomplices in Dr. King's assassination.

We find that we are unable to respond to your request as it now stands due to legal and regulatory restrictions on the release of personal information from official records. In that light, please be advised that we can proceed no further with your request unless and until we are in receipt of notarized statements of release from Mrs. Coretta King and James Earl Ray, respectively. These statements should be quite specific as to what areas of personal information are and are not authorized for release by this Agency to you and your client. If all information in our records is releasable, that should be so stated; if only such information as relates to specific incidents or to specific periods of time is releasable, these caveats should be clearly stated.

Finally, we must ask that you provide a statement of willingness to pay search and duplication fees as required by this request and in line with the fee schedule enclosed. It has been estimated that such charges could approach $1000. Along with the notarized statements above, and the statement of willingness to pay all search and copying charges (or those up to an established limit), we would require a down payment of half the anticipated charges. Payment should be made to this office in the form of a check or money order payable to Treasurer of the United States.

Sincerely,

Gene F. Wilson
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosure

F-76-382
EK

JAMES H. LESAR
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1231 FOURTH STREET, S. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20024

TELEPHONE (202) 484-6023

December 3, 1976

Mr. Gene F. Wilson
Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Wilson:

In response to your letter of November 30, 1976, Mr. Harold Weisberg has authorized me to state his willingess to pay search and copying charges up to the amount of $1,000 if such charges are required by his Freedom of Information Act request for records pertaining to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his assassination. Because you require a down payment of half the anticipated charges, I enclose a check for $500.00.

This payment of $500.00 and any subsequent payments made in connection with this request are tendered with the express reservation that Mr. Weisberg does not waive his right to recover them.

9 11 PM '76

C.I.A. regulations provide:

> Records shall be furnished without charge or at a reduced rate whenever the Coordinator determines that waiver or reduction of the charge is in the public interest because furnishing the information can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public. The Coordinator also may waive or reduce the charge whenever he determines that the interest of the government would be served thereby. 32 C.F.R. §1900.25(a).

In accordance with this regulation, I call upon you to determine that it is in the public and governmental interest to waive search and copying charges incurred in connection with Mr. Weisberg's request. Enclosed herein is a copy of a letter to Deputy Attorney General Harold R. Tyler, Jr. which makes a similar request of the Department of Justice. The reasons expressed in that letter for granting a waiver are incorporated in my request that you grant a waiver.

Should you require it, I will provide you with affidavits by myself, Mr. Weisberg, and others in support of this request for a waiver of the search and copying charges for these records. If you do wish supporting affidavits, I would appreciate it if you would inform me of this as soon as possible. I would also request that you indicate what standards, if any, you have established for determining whether or not a request for waiver should be granted.

You state that you can proceed no further with Mr. Weisberg's request "unless and until we are in receipt of notarized statements of release from Mrs. Coretta King and James Earl Ray, respectively." Because Mr. Weisberg's request undoubtedly comprises records which do not involve any proper claim of privacy, this cannot be true. I do enclose, however, a copy of a notarized waiver by James Earl Ray. I will immediately contact Mrs. King about a waiver by her. In the meantime, I request that you proceed to make available those records responsive to Mr. Weisberg's request which do not involve any proper claim of invasion of privacy.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Lesar

James H. Lesar

13 JAN 1977

James H. Lesar, Esquire
1231 Fourth St., NW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Lesar:

Thank you for your letter of 27 December. This will acknowledge receipt of the sworn waiver executed by Mr. James Earl Ray, and to advise that processing of this portion of your request has been initiated. Upon receipt of the sworn waiver from Mrs. King, as mentioned in your letter of 3 December, we will then be able to proceed with all aspects of your FOIA request. We also wish to acknowledge receipt of your check for $500.

Thank you for your assistance and continued cooperation.

This request has been assigned the case number F-76-382.

Sincerely,

Gene F. Wilson
Information and Privacy Coordinator

IPS/EK/cb/12 Jan 77
Distribution:
Orig - Addressee
1 - IPS Chrono
1 ✓ IPS F-76-382
1 - OGC

26 APR 1977

James H. Lesar, Esq.
Attorney at Law
1231 Fourth Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Lesar:

This is in partial response to your request, dated 11 June 1976, made on behalf of your client, Mr. Harold Weisberg. Please refer also to our letters, dated 21 June 1976, 30 November 1976 and 13 January 1977. Per our recent telephone conversation this partial response addresses itself to that part of your letter requesting records pertaining to James Earl Ray.

The materials located thus far have been reviewed carefully, and our determinations are as follows:

Enclosed, Tab A, are copies of the following items which are being released to you in their entirety:

1. One book excerpt.

2-109. One hundred and eight (108) press items.

110-134. Twenty-five (25) UPI wire items.

155-171. Thirty-seven (37) Reuters wire items.

172-223. Fifty-two (52) AP wire items.

Enclosed also, Tab B, are segregable portions of the documents listed below. Deletions in the originals were made under the exemption provisions of the Freedom of Information Act subsections which are given with each document cited.

The applicability of these exemptions has been explained to you in our earlier correspondence.

	Documents	Exemptions
224-225.	Two cables, dated 10 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3)
226.	Cable, dated 10 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
227-229.	Three cables, dated 19 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
230-233.	Four cables, dated 20 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
234-235.	Two cables, dated 22 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
236-237.	Two dispatches, dated 22 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3)
238-239.	Two cables, dated 23 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
240.	Memorandum, dated 25 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
241.	Cable, dated 26 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3)
242.	Routing slip, dated 22 October 1975.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
243.	Routing slip, dated 23 October 1975.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)

The documents listed below are being withheld in their entirety under the exemption provisions of the Freedom of Informaton Act subsections given with each document.

	Documents	Exemptions
244.	Memorandum, dated 17 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
245.	Memorandum, dated 19 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
246.	Cable, dated 20 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)

247.	Cable, dated 29 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
248.	Memorandum, dated 1 May 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3)
249.	Cable, dated 3 May 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
250.	Memorandum, dated 14 May 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
251.	Memorandum, dated 16 May 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
252-254.	Three cables, dated 8 June 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3)
255.	Memorandum, dated 19 February 1969.	(b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3), (b)(6)
256.	Memorandum, dated 28 May 1969.	(b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3), (b)(6)
257-264.	Eight biographic sketches.	(b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3), (b)(6)
265.	Memorandum, dated 17 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
266-272.	Seven Cables, dated 19 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
273.	Cable, dated 20 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
274.	Cable, dated 22 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
275.	Cable, dated 23 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
276.	Cable, dated 24 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
277-278.	Two Cables, dated 25 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
279.	Dispatch, dated 26 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)

280.	Cable, dated 28 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
281-282.	Two Cables, dated 30 April 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
283.	Memorandum, dated 2 May 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
284.	Memorandum, dated 6 May 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
285.	Memorandum, dated 15 May 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)
286.	Cable, dated 24 May 1968.	(b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(6)

The decisions cited above were made by Mr. Charles A. Briggs, DDO Information Review Officer.

As specified in the Freedom of Information Act, I am advising you of your right to appeal the above decisions, but it would seem to be more reasonable to await the complete results of our processing before you actually determine whether to do so.

We thank you for your patience and consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Savige

Gene F. Wilson
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures
IPS/EK/cb/20 Apr 77
Orig. - Adse.
1 - DDO
① - IPS Chrono
1 - IPS F-76-382 w/cy Tab B
1 - OLC
1 - OGC
1 - Pub Aff/Hetu

LOG AS APPEAL (F-76-382)

Doesn't he owe us money?

Appeal F-76-382

Mr. Gene Wilson, FOIA/PA Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
7/21/77

(Tom O., or successor)

Dear Mr. Wilson,

LOG THIS AS A NEW REQUEST

The news account of your coming release of an additional 4,000 pages on what might be called mind-bending reminds me that my requests seem to me to cover this and that you have not notified me of this release. I do want these. If you interpret my prior requests as not covering them then consider this a new request. My recollection is that my initial requests cover anything and verything directly or indirectly related to this subject. That you have interpreted my requests as I have is evidence from prior correspondence notifying me of releases.

quest for
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s.

Under the Act there is authority for the remission of all costs and fees. I believe I meet the requirements for this remission and I make the request formally. My work is restricted exclusively to what is now regarded as important historical cases. In one on which I have paid the CIA large sums without compliance, the King assassination, the previous Attorney General so held, formally, confirmed by a federal judge. I have already arranged to give all my records, not just these, to a university system. I believe at an earlier date I reserved the right to recover these fees. I have delayed a formal appeal pending a determination of a judge that there be a ruling by the Department of Justice with regard to me and on this.. The Department provided a bargain-basement response, a 60% remission that I have appealed and will if necessary litigate. I hope the CIA will act favorably on this.

[illegible] s adding fees [illegible] be [illegible]!!

It has been a very long time since I have heard from you about a multitude of requests all long overdue by your own backlog claims. One of these is on the King assassination, In that you may recall you estimated a $1,000 search fee and asked for and received a $500 deposit. What you have sent is ludicrous. In the long time in which I have heard and received nothing further I think you have in effect refused the request after charging fees so this is also an appeal on the King/Ray records.

peal

I am asking again when I may expect to hear from you on all the other requests, including my PA request for the records on me. The appeal is several years old now. My recollection is that your last reference to this stated the processing of the appeal had not been completed. I have rights under the Act to more than copies. I want to exercise those rights. This is impossible without obtaining all copies first. As I have told you repeatedly I would prefer not to have to litigate this. What I am thus really asking you is does the CIA want me to suit it on a request that goes back to 1971 and on which it is not in compliance? Not even processed tye appeal?

Among the factors making it difficult to keep track of these non-compliances is your failure to respond as well as to comply. I believe I have asked this before. If I have then what follows is an appeal from a refusal. If I have not it is a new request. I would like all records relating to my requests and appeals, including their sequential relationships to other requests, under both Acts and particularly as this relates to compliance with other requests.

Ed K.

[illegible] "[illegible] description"

Sincerely,

Harold

Harold Weisberg

JUL 25 2 55 PM '77

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

LOOK - 15 APRIL - 1969

WHY JAMES EARL RAY MURDERED DR. KING

BY WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE

This is the third in a series of articles on James Earl Ray and the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by William Bradford Huie, the eighth-generation Southerner who solved the murder of Emmet Till and was a friend of Dr. King. At the time of his first two

to fear from any jury in Shelby County, Tenn., because, in his words, "70 percent of the voters of this county [the Memphis area] voted for either Wallace or Nixon." He added that certainly he didn't have to fear a death sentence because "no white man has ever been given a death sentence in a racial killing."

The Ray brothers believe that Jimmy is supported not only by millions of individual Americans but also by certain newspapers and newspapermen. On November 1, 1968, when he thought the trial might start on November 12, Jerry Ray came to Alabama and talked with me. One of his worries, he said, was that "nobody but liberal reporters" could get a seat assigned in the courtroom for the trial. Jerry wanted me to use my influence to get "some conservative reporters like Paul Harvey and Fulton Lewis assigned seats, so we can have some friends who'll tell Jimmy's side of it."

One reason why it was hard to convince James *reports, Mr. Huie believed that the evidence then available to him pointed to a conspiracy. There remained, however, unanswered questions that led him to months of further investigation and the current conclusions he presents here.*

IN THE TENNESSEE STATE PRISON at Nashville, James Earl Ray now regards himself as a political prisoner. When, early in the presidential campaign of 1968, he shot and killed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Ray took what he regards as a political action approved by millions of Americans. Ray thinks he fired the first shot in a social or racial conflict, a second Civil War, which will eventually result in his being freed. He therefore feels fulfilled; he believes he is liked, respected, even admired. And he is confident that political developments in the United States will cause him to be freed in two to four years.

James Ray, who is 41, along with his brothers Jerry, 34, and John, 37, believed that George C. Wallace would be elected President on November 5, 1968, and that President Wallace would promptly pardon the murderer of Dr. King. James Ray thought that by murdering Dr. King, he would aid Wallace's cause. When Wallace was not elected, all three Ray brothers took comfort in the Republican victory. They figured they had gained something. The trial was set to begin on November 12, 1968. One of the reasons why James Ray changed attorneys on the eve of his trial, thereby forcing a postponement of several months, was that he thought he'd have a better chance if his trial were held after January 20, 1969.

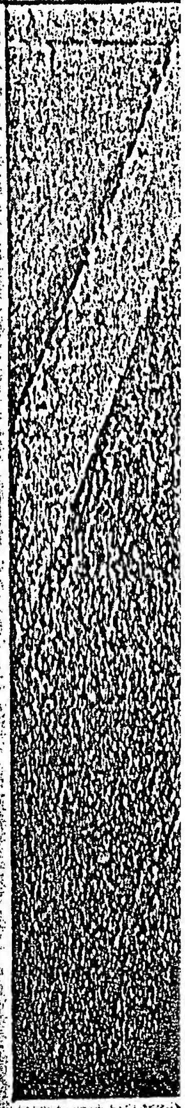
Jerry Ray, who told me that his own police record began when he was a juvenile, said of the delay: "Jimmy's friends are just bound to have more power after Nixon becomes President."

James Ray wrote to me that he didn't have much Ray that he was likely to get the electric chair if he went to trial was that in his environment, in his heavily guarded cell, he received some of the approbation he had killed Dr. King to get. A deputy sheriff told him: "That jury ain't gonna turn you loose till they've fined ya two dollars for shootin' a coon outa season."

To counter such advice, Ray had to be told: "Boy, you pay attention to these half-assed jailers and you'll wind up in the chair. These guards and deputies are nigger-haters like you, and they'll - - - in your ear about how you saved the white race by killing Martin Luther Coon. But jailers don't sit on juries. If you go to trial, three or four of your jurors will be Negroes, and the eight or nine white men or women damn sure won't be jailers or bailiffs. That jury will burn yore ass, and you better believe it, and let me make a deal if you want to go on living."

In August, 1968, when I began work on this case—when I began sending in questions to Ray via his lawyers and receiving his answers—Ray gave this account of the actual murder: he said that he carried the rifle to Memphis, and that at 3:15 p.m. on April 4, he rented the room at the rooming house. He said that he bought the binoculars about 4:30 p.m. But he said that when the shot was fired at 6:01 p.m., he was in the Mustang, on Main Street; that the "other man" came running down the stairs, threw the rifle on the sidewalk, jumped into the back seat of the Mustang and covered himself with a sheet, while he (Ray) drove away. Eight blocks from the murder scene, Ray said that the "other man" jumped out at a traffic light, and he (Ray) drove on to Birmingham and Atlanta.

Month after month, I sought evidence to support this account, while I urged Ray to reveal more about the "other man." I found no supporting evidence I could believe. I had to conclude that, in all likelihood, the "other man" wasn't there, that Ray



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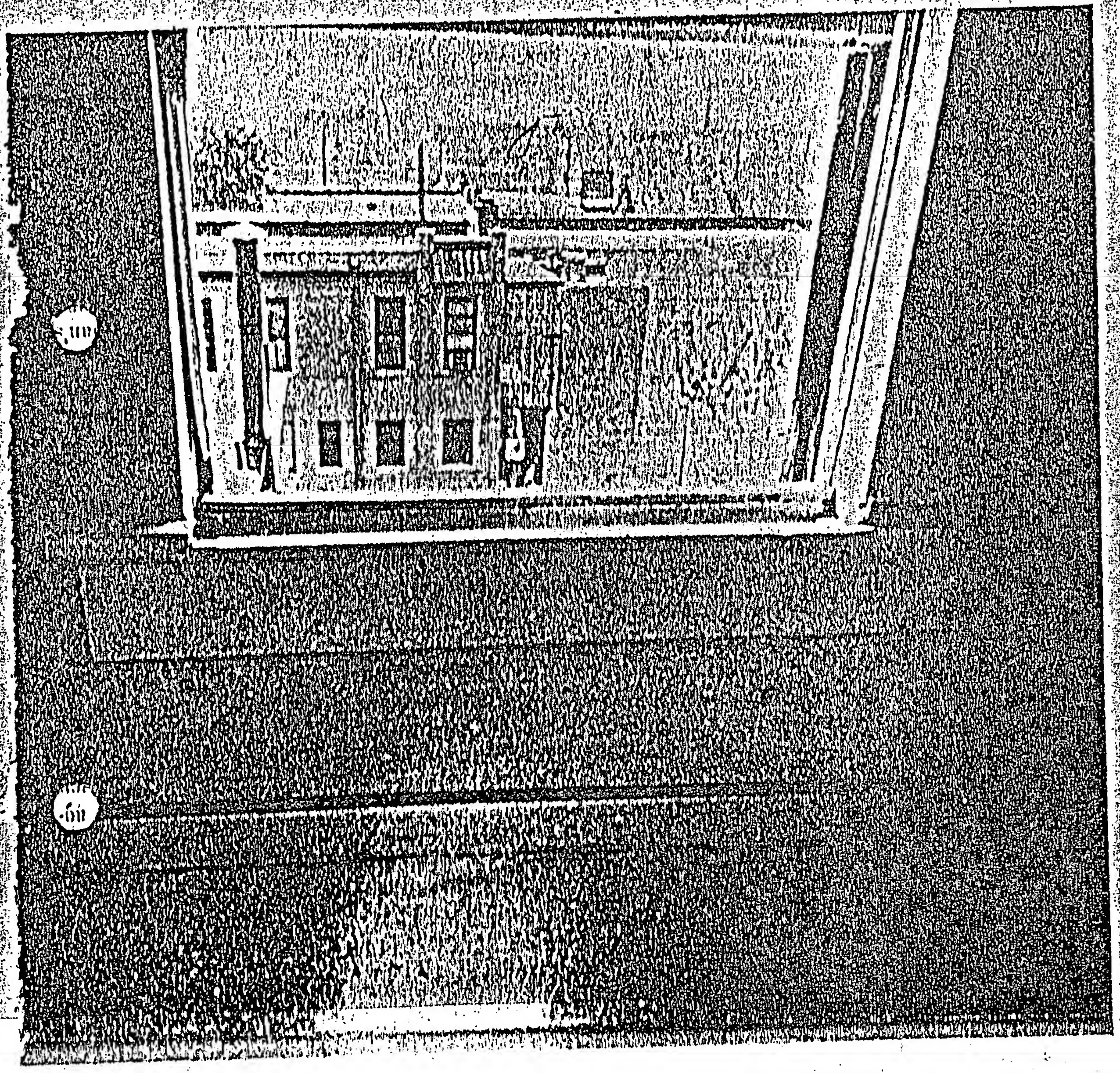
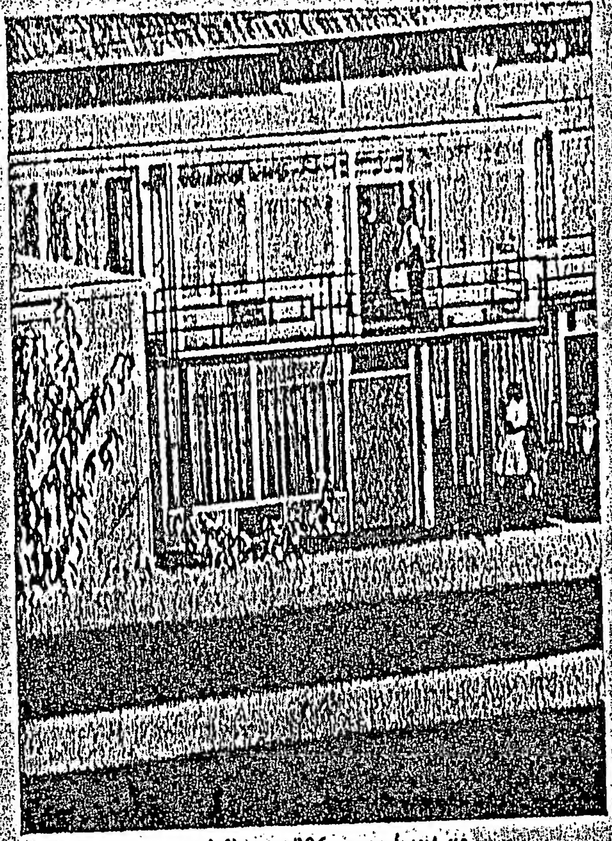
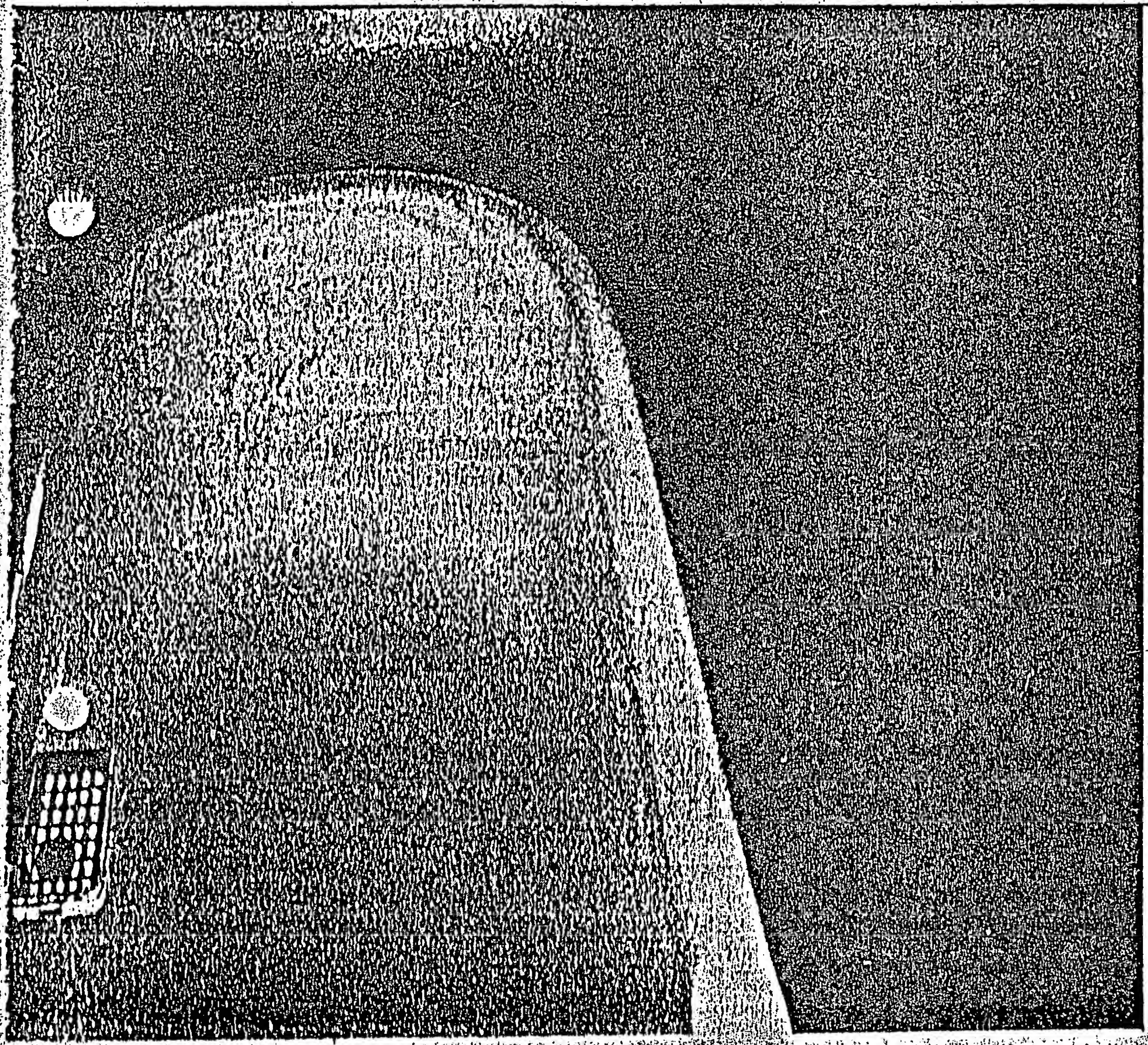




Dr. King occupied Room 306, now kept as a memorial, on the upper floor of the Lorraine Motel. The bullet traveled 205 feet to its target on the balcony.

alone went to the rooming house and shot Dr. King. I told both James and Jerry Ray last fall that, in my opinion, James Ray had no defense to the charge of murder. I told them further that if James Ray went to trial pleading not guilty, he would be in grave danger of the electric chair. Since he was a habitual crim-



Through this window of a drab Memphis rooming house, the assassin fired a single .30-06 bullet.

inal, widely suspected of being a hired killer, he couldn't count on the solid support of white supremacists, not even of Ku Klux Klan members or sympathizers (who do not kill for cash).

Ray's decision to plead guilty and accept the 99-year sentence was not easily reached. He feared that a guilty plea might cause him to lose status "among the prison population." As a criminal who has spent 13 years in prison and who knows he will spend more years there, Ray first wants status among criminals and their guards. I now believe he killed Dr. King to achieve such status. Only secondly is he concerned about status among people who don't inhabit prisons. And he hungered for the drama of a trial. He sustained himself with a fantasy in which he took the witness stand "before the world" and performed masterfully. He surrendered this fantasy and agreed to plead guilty, I feel sure, only after he decided that, despite his guilty plea, he will now be an important person in prison, and that he will yet win freedom in some dramatic manner.

Ray's pleading guilty to murdering Dr. King does not answer all the questions that continue to trouble me and many Americans. These questions are:

1. Who, if anyone, assisted Ray, financially or otherwise?

2. Did Ray make the decision to kill, or did someone else make it?

3. When was this decision made?

4. Exactly why was it made? What were the motives of Ray and his possible assistants?

5. Is there any connection, however remote, between the murders of John F. Kennedy and Dr. King?

I believe I know partial answers to these questions, and I believe I may yet find complete answers. But in August, September and October of 1968, as I sought these answers in Chicago, California, Canada

continued

Canada. I got a shave in a barbershop across from the train station. I remember I had trouble as the barber said he didn't shave customers any more.

I took a cab to Windsor and got there about 10 or 11 a.m. The train left for Toronto about 20 minutes after I got there. I arrived in Toronto about 5 p.m. on the 6th of April [Saturday], and I rented the room at 102 Ossington about 6 p.m. for $10. The people who ran the rooming house were immigrants [Polish]. The woman couldn't speak hardly any English and the man not much better. I never gave them a name as they never asked me for one.

On Monday I went to the newspaper office and went through the old files looking for two names to use to apply for a passport. I got about ten names from the paper, including Paul Edward Bridgman and Ramon George Sneyd. [Ray got these names from births reported in 1932. He wanted men about his own age. Ray was born in 1928, but he thought he looked younger than that, so he claimed 1931 as his birth year. Using the Toronto telephone directory, he confirmed that the men he had selected from the birth reports were still living, and in Toronto.]

Posing as an employee of the Bureau of Internal Affairs, Passport Division, I then telephoned some of these men to see if they had ever had a passport. I couldn't use the name of anyone who had ever had a passport as his picture would be on file. Bridgman told me that he had had a passport about eight years ago, but Sneyd said he had never had a passport. [The real Sneyd and the real Bridgman remember the telephone calls about their passports. Bridgman thought the call was "strange" because it came during the early evening, after normal working hours for government employees.] At that time I thought that the man applying for a passport had to have another man who'd swear that he had known him [the applicant] for two years. So I decided to let Sneyd apply for the

continued on page 106

and I, separately and together, talked with Ray for more than one hundred hours. It was a baffling experience because Ray never gave us his confidence on critical issues. Preparing his defense was like preparing for moot court in law school. We worked, but we had no defendant to work with us.

At all times, Ray was courteous and respectful. Of moderate size, with a sensitive, nonassertive personality, he is a man who would go unnoticed anywhere. Probing for motivations, I often attempted to discuss race or politics with him. He is well informed, but his views are neither extreme nor bitterly held. I never heard him express or saw him display resentment, hatred or malice toward anyone.

At each conference with Ray, we had to consider first a written list of topics he had prepared, some relevant to the case, some not. His questions were serious to him, and he seemed interested in my responses. He showed most interest in such personal matters as my bringing him shirts and ties for his courtroom appearances. On a human-to-human basis, we seemed to be close. But when I began asking the questions, he changed in attitude and demeanor. He insisted that his accomplice, Raoul, actually fired the fatal shot, but when I questioned him about Raoul, he became tense and devious. Each time I saw him, I felt I had to make a new start at trying to gain his confidence. I never met a man quite so alone, quite so certain that he was his only keeper.

I believe his Raoul story to this extent: I think he met somebody like Raoul in Montreal in August, 1967; and I think Raoul may be Ray's name for one, two or three persons who directed or assisted him between August, 1967, and his escape through Canada.

Here are some of the reasons why my son and I feel that there *was* direction or help:

1. My son spent a week studying the rooming houses, the businesses and the people in the area of the murder. Unless Ray actually walked through and

ing south." Another witness, "Cornbread"
said that he saw "the man" fire the shot
bushes and then "take off."

From a concealed position in a fireh
south of Bessie Brewer's rooming house, po
watching the area of Dr. King's room, tryin
tect him from what they thought was the mos
threat to him: possible attack by Negro mil
Negro policeman who could recognize the m
gerous of these militants was at a peephole
tually saw Dr. King fall. Both firemen and p
who were in the back of the fire station h
shot, and they all thought that it came from t
es, not from any window 20 feet above the
So I find the "bushman theory" of this shooti
to dismiss.

3. The star state witness is Charlie S
46 years old, who lived in the room next
bathroom. He said he heard the shot and saw
who looked like Ray run out of the bathroo
Stephens' common-law wife, Grace Hays S
said that Charlie was drunk and saw nothin
she saw the man run out of the bathroom,
wore an Army jacket and was much short
lighter than Ray, weighing no more than 125
(Ray is 5'11" and weighs about 160 pounds.)

4. When Ray's abandoned Mustang was
and searched in Atlanta. In its trunk was a
clothing, much too small for Ray. It would fit
who weighs 125 pounds. Moreover, the car's as
brimmed with cigarette butts, and Ray do
smoke. And in the back seat was a sheet, like t
Solomon Jones' bushman was wearing.

5. The state has no conclusive ballistics evi
A .30-06 bullet was recovered from Dr. King's c
vertebra, but no ballistics expert could say pos
that that bullet was fired from the Remingto
purchased by Ray at the Aeromarine Supply
pany in Birmingham and found on the sidewal

continued on pa

WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE CONTINUED

and Mexico, I was handicapped by what I now regard as several misconceptions. Other people, I realize, will disagree with me emphatically, and in detail. I believe, however, that if this tragedy is to be understood, if ever all the questions are to be answered and the answers widely accepted, these misconceptions must be dispelled.

The first misconception is that Ray's flight through Canada after the murder and his obtaining a Canadian passport by using the names of living citizens of Toronto were complex feats that he could have accomplished only with assistance. After retracing this trip, and studying Ray's account of it, I believe the feat was within his capabilities. No assistance was necessary. Here's how he did it:

Leaving Memphis I had to drive slow and careful so as not to attract attention or get arrested for speeding. I drove south into Mississippi for a while, then turned east across Mississippi and Alabama, through Birmingham to Atlanta. I got to my room in Atlanta about 6 a.m. on April 5th. I parked the Mustang and left it and sure hated I didn't have time to sell it for at least $1,000. Upon leaving my room, on the table I left a letter to me from the John Birch Society telling me how to get information about the English-speaking countries of Africa. I wanted the FBI to investigate this letter while I got away.

I took a bus from Atlanta to Cincinnati. It was due to leave Atlanta about 11:30 a.m., but it left about 1 p.m. I arrived in Cincinnati about 1:30 a.m. of the 6th of April. I had about an hour and a half layover, so I went to a tavern as I didn't want to stay in the bus station. I think the taverns close there at 2:30 a.m. I arrived at Detroit about 8:00 a.m., still the 6th of April. I then caught a cab to a train station, where I was told I'd have to take a cab to Windsor

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"ON BALANCE, I FEEL RAY WAS HELPED."

FOR CONSPIRACY

BY ARTHUR J. HANES FORMER ATTORNEY FOR JAMES EARL RAY

WHY DID James Earl Ray murder Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.? I still believe that Ray killed Dr. King because he was directed to do it. Despite his plea of guilty in court, I also feel that Ray did not carry out the murder entirely alone. On balance, both my son and partner, Arthur, Jr., and I feel that, at the very least, Ray was helped. This means that we believe there was what the law calls a conspiracy.

Between July 5, 1968, when, at Ray's request, I first saw him in London and became his attorney, and November 10, 1968, when he discharged me, my son

had at least some time to study the roomin complex from which the fatal shot is alleged t been fired, we can't believe that Ray coul known that he would have an unobstructed fire at Dr. King from the room he rented, or fr bathroom the state claims the shot was fired Since there is no evidence that Ray ever enter house until 3:15 p.m. on the day of the murde since when he did enter it, he didn't go throu house looking out of various windows, but mer dicated what room he wanted, we believe that one must have told him which house to ente which room to rent.

2. Twenty feet below the bathroom window which the shot is alleged to have been fired, th a vacant lot, which at that time was covered bushes 12 to 15 feet high. Dr. King's chauffeur omon Jones, told reporters a few minutes aft shooting that "just after the shot was fired, a

ARTHUR J. HANES CONTINUED

the Main Street entrance to the rooming house.

6. When the man who fired the shot emerged from the rooming house onto Main Street, Ray's Mustang was parked to his *right*. Yet, according to witnesses in the ground-floor Canipe Amusement Co. who saw the rifle dropped, the man with the gun turned left, or south, *away* from the Mustang, dropped the rifle, and *continued walking south.*

7. Two white Mustangs were parked on Main Street near the entrance to the rooming house. The one that did not belong to Ray was said to have a "whiplash" antenna, indicating radio-broadcast equipment. Within a few minutes after Dr. King fell, there were mysterious radio reports about shots being fired from a Pontiac at a fleeing Mustang. I listened to police recordings of these reports, and they remain a mystery to me. All I know is that they could not have emanated from the Mustang owned by Ray, which had only an ordinary car radio.

8. I know the father and son who own and operate the Aeromarine Supply Company in Birmingham. They sold two hunting rifles to Ray, and talked with him on successive days. They told me that the man who bought these rifles "seemed to know very little about guns."

9. Finally, in all my conversations with Ray, I kept asking myself: Why would this man have killed Dr. King? He was doing all right as a fugitive. He was staying out of jail, finding girls, drinking a little beer and vodka, driving his Mustang to places like Acapulco, New Orleans and Los Angeles, apparently enjoying himself, and paying his way with various illegal activities. Why then would he gravely jeopardize himself by the senseless murder of a world-famous figure? As far as I have been able to learn, he got no big final payment for it, and may not have expected any, though he has made contradictory
ments on this point. So I simply can't think of an
tive that clearly satisfies me in this case.

This is not to imply that I think I can dis
that Ray killed Dr. King. I'm as puzzled as an
else. The state had a formidable circumstantial
against Ray. The Federal Bureau of Investiga
for which I once worked as an agent, has don
usual masterful job. I admire Mr. Foreman, who
great criminal lawyer. I know and respect Mr. H
with whom I have spent many hours puzzling
this case; and certainly he writes persuasively a
Ray's motivations.

But as of this moment, I simply cannot a
that James Earl Ray was not *helped* in murdering
King. There are too many unanswered questions
my mind. In months to come, I hope that Mr. H
with Ray's help, can answer these questions.

WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE CONTINUED

RAY TOLD HUIE: "I WAS GOING TO FRANCE TO TRY TO GET IN THE MERCENARIES."

passport and let Bridgman be his witness, and I'd be both Sneyd and Bridgman. So I applied for birth certificates in both these names.

I then told the Polish lady on Ossington Street that my name was Paul Bridgman. I wrote it out for her on a piece of paper because I expected [illegible] as I

While I was in Montreal the police must have had a tip that I might be there because several people were arrested. I remember reading in a paper where two males were arrested in a white car with a dog. For this reason I never left the room except for meals and when I went to the shipping office. I returned to Toronto after being gone nine days, and next day I called the travel agency and was told that my passport had just arrived. When I picked up the passport I found the name was spelled wrong. [It was SNEYA *instead of* SNEYD. *Ray prints when he writes, and his triangular D can easily be mistaken for an A. On his application for the passport, the D in Sneyd looks like an A.] There wasn't time to get it changed, so I had to leave Toronto with a faulty passport.*

had practiced that trip from Detroit to Windsor
Toronto to Montreal.

Ray has an amazingly retentive criminal min
He can draw an accurate diagram of any place he h
ever visited. He knows his way around. He *may* hav
had assistance in his escape after the murder, but h
probably didn't need it, and I now don't believe h
had it. He's too proud of having done it alone.

The second misconception is that Ray's findin
the rooming house in Memphis from which he sho
Dr. King, the precise timing, his "knowing wher
King would be at a certain time," and his escap
from a murder scene crawling with police and police
cars—that all this required assistance, that "one man
just wasn't capable of doing all this by hisself, he

had applied for the birth certificate under that name. Then I went to the Dundas Street address and rented a room as Ramon George Sneyd. I told the Chinese lady I worked nights. I was going to spend days at Dundas Street as Sneyd, and nights at Ossington Street as Bridgman.

I then went to Brown's Theatrical Supplies on Yonge Street and bought a makeup kit. This was so I could apply for the passport as Sneyd, then I could change my appearance and go back to the passport office as Bridgman and sign as a witness for Sneyd. In this way I could be Bridgman vouching for Sneyd.

In the meantime I had been stopped by a policeman and given a jaywalking ticket so I had to destroy all my Galt I.D. [This included his Alabama driver's license and all other papers identifying him as Eric S. Galt.] I then went to the travel agency and applied for a passport for Ramon George Sneyd. It was there and then that I found out that I had gone to a lot of extra trouble. If you don't have anyone to swear they have known you for two years, you can still get a Canadian passport simply by swearing that you are a Canadian citizen. I did this and was told I'd get my passport in about two weeks.

I didn't need Bridgman any more, so I checked out of the Ossington Street room and kept the Dundas Street address for Sneyd's passport to be mailed to. Then I went to Montreal to check on some ships in case the passport deal fell through. In Montreal I got a room on Notre Dame West, all the way across town from Notre Dame East where I had lived in August, 1967. If I didn't get the passport, I was going to rent passage on a ship that sailed around the coast of South Africa and try to slip in at one of the stops. I found a Scandinavian line that had ships going to Mozambique. The price for a ticket was $600. But they wanted a passport number, so I gave up on that.

When I got back to Toronto from Montreal I had about $800. I wanted to go to an English-speaking country in Africa, so I could get employment, but the price of a round trip ticket was $820. You can't get in one of those countries without a round-trip ticket. So I bought a round-trip ticket to London, but I didn't expect to stay in England because it has too close police and other ties with the U.S.

Upon my arrival in England I called the Portuguese Embassy and asked them how long it would take to get a visa. They told me one day. I then used my return ticket to Canada to go to Portugal that day. In Portugal I spent all my time looking for a ship to go to Angola. I finally found one. The price was 3,777 escudos one way, about $130. The ship was leaving in two days. I then went to get the visa and was told it would take seven days. I then returned to England as I was getting short of money. [In London, he held up a food store and got about $300.]

I was going from England to France to try to get in the mercenaries. But they were having riots in France, and planes were not landing there. I finally contacted a newspaper reporter who told me the mercenaries had an office in Brussels. He gave me the address. I then bought a ticket to Brussels, and I was going there when I was caught at the London airport. They shook me down and found the .38. I also had a blueprint on how to make a silencer for a pistol.

That is a remarkable account and, as far as I can determine, a true one. The man who wrote it requires no assistance to travel anywhere. Ray had spent seven years in the Missouri State Penitentiary studying how to escape from prison and from the United States. He had read books and listened to other prisoners. In July and August, 1967, three months after his escape from the Missouri prison, he just had to have somebody to help him."

But did he have to have help? Here is the progression of events, along with an explanation partially based on Ray's statements to me:

THE FINAL DECISION to kill Dr. King, made by Ray or someone else, appears to have been reached on March 16 or 17. Dr. King was in Los Angeles on those days, his movements and statements reported by newspapers, radio and television. On Saturday the 16th, he addressed the California Democratic Council in convention at Anaheim and "called for the defeat of President Johnson." On Sunday the 17th, he spoke at the Second Baptist Church in Los Angeles. The subject: *The Meaning of Hope*. He said that hate had become the national malady, that he had seen hate on too many faces, "on the faces of sheriffs in the South and on the faces of John Birch Society members in California." He closed by saying: "Hate is too great a burden to bear. I can't hate."

Literally while Dr. King was delivering that sermon, at a post office three miles away, Ray was filing a card changing his mailing address from the St. Francis Hotel, Los Angeles, to General Delivery, Atlanta, Ga. Next morning, Dr. King left Los Angeles for Mississippi, and Ray left too. Ray, driving the Mustang, stopped in New Orleans; then on March 22, he was at the Flamingo Motel in Selma, Ala., when Dr. King was 40 miles away recruiting for the Poor People's March. Dr. King returned to Atlanta. Ray spent the night of March 23 in Birmingham; then on March 24, he paid a week's rent on a room in Atlanta at 113 14th Street.

On March 24-27, Dr. King was in the New York area. Ray used these days to locate and observe Dr. King's home, his office at SCLC headquarters, and his

continued

church, Ebenezer Baptist. On a map found in Ray's Atlanta room by the FBI after the murder, all three of these locations were circled. Ray's fingerprints were on the map. On Thursday, March 28, Dr. King led striking garbage workers in Memphis on the march that a few young black militants turned into a riot. On the same day, Ray or someone else decided he should buy a rifle.

Ray told me that he decided to buy the rifle in Birmingham, rather than in Atlanta, because "I had I.D. in Alabama." On March 29, Ray drove to Birmingham, registered as Eric S. Galt at the Travelodge, Five Points; then went to the Aeromarine Supply Company at the Birmingham Airport and, as Harvey Lowmyer, bought a .243-caliber rifle with a Redfield scope. (He said he had come to Birmingham to buy the rifle because "I had I.D. in Alabama." Yet he bought the rifle under an alias for which he had no identification.) Dr. King, on the 29th, returned to Atlanta deeply depressed because, for the first time, a few marchers led by him had resorted to violence. Newspapers, radio and television publicized his pledge to return to Memphis "next week."

On Saturday, March 30, Ray went back to the Aeromarine Company and exchanged the rifle he had bought on Friday for a heavier rifle: a Remington .30-06 slide-action rifle, with a 2-to-7-power variable Redfield scope. This rifle package, with 20 Peters High Velocity, 150-grain, Soft Point cartridges, cost Ray $265.85. Dr. King held a staff meeting at the Ebenezer Baptist Church during which he considered calling off the Poor People's March in the face of the "rising tide of hate in America."

On Sunday, March 31, Dr. King preached at the Washington Cathedral, and Ray drove back from Birmingham to Atlanta.

On Monday, April 1, after an SCLC staff meeting in Atlanta, it was announced that Dr. King would return to Memphis on April 3. Ray left Atlanta late that afternoon, drove northwest and spent the night in a motel near Florence, Ala.

On Tuesday, April 2, Dr. King rested at his home, while Ray moved to a motel near Corinth, Miss. On a side road leading off of U.S. Highway 78 in Mississippi, Ray practiced with his new rifle. He fired several of the Peters Soft Point cartridges he had bought in Birmingham, and several Army .30-06 cartridges he had acquired somewhere else.

ON WEDNESDAY, April 3, Dr. King flew to Memphis on a plane that was delayed while it was searched after a bomb threat. He went to the Lorraine Hotel and Motel and was given Room 306. He had stayed at this place before, always in one of the new, more comfortable motel rooms fronting on Mulberry Street. Photographers took pictures of him, and on television that evening, the number 306 could be seen above Dr. King's head.

Ray came into Memphis on the morning of April 3. I assume he scouted the murder scene and could note that the doorways of all the Lorraine Motel rooms are visible from the back windows of the rooming house, which has its entrance at 422½ South Main Street. Ray got a haircut, purchased a shaving kit at a Rexall Drug Store, then registered as Eric S. Galt at the Rebel Motel inside the Memphis city limits.

At 3:15 p.m. on April 4, as John Willard, Ray rented Room 5B at the rooming house. About 4:00 p.m., he purchased Bushnell binoculars and case from the York Arms Company a few blocks away on South Main Street. He took the rifle and the binoculars to his room. At 6:01 p.m., when Dr. King came leisurely out of his room and leaned on a railing, Ray killed him with one Soft Point bullet, which mushroomed on contact.

Did Ray have help in arranging this? He may have. But again, he could have done it without help.

The third misconception is that the fatal rifle shot could have been fired only by a practiced, experienced, expert marksman.

The Aeromarine Supply Company sold me the same rifle, same ammunition, same scope mounted in the same manner, that they sold Ray. Then I reconstructed the shot that killed Dr. King.

The distance was 205 feet. Dr. King was standing to Ray's right at an angle of about 20 degrees. He was standing, because of the terrain, about 15 feet below Ray. So Ray was firing down and to his right. Dr. King, unlike John Kennedy, was not a moving target. He was standing still. Ray was firing from a bathroom, with the rifle at rest on the windowsill. Through the scope, Dr. King appeared to be standing no more than 30 feet from the end of the rifle barrel.

I hadn't fired a heavy rifle in 25 years. On my first shot, I hit a circle the size of a silver dollar. Any 12-year-old boy familiar with a .22 could have killed Dr. King from that position with that weapon.

Ray had Army training. He was in the Military Police. He had practiced with guns. So the shot was easy for him.

The fourth misconception is that Ray is stupid

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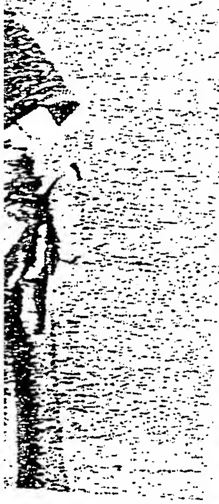
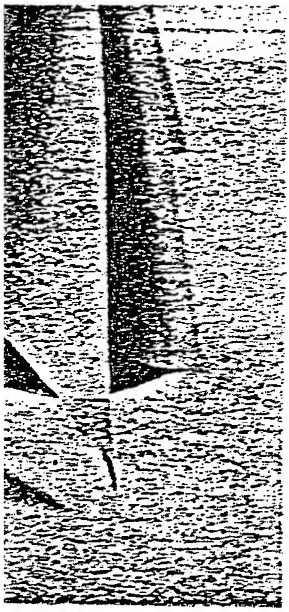


and inept. It's true that some of his earlier crimes were ludicrously inept. He couldn't pull a simple holdup without running down a blind alley or losing his shoes or dropping his wallet as he ran. But during his seven years in the Missouri State Penitentiary, he evidently matured as a criminal. His escape from there on April 23, 1967 was well planned and well executed. He somehow persuaded at least two men who are still there to take the risks of aiding his escape. Instead of being inept, Ray has become crafty.

The fifth misconception is that Ray could not have supported himself and his travels between April 23, 1967, and June 8, 1968, and therefore must have had financial assistance.

In Montreal, about August 1, 1967, Ray held up a food store and got $1,450. In reply to my written queries, he first told me that he got this money by holding up a whorehouse, and I published his account of it. Then he told me that it had really been a food store, and that he told me it was a whorehouse because he didn't want a "hold" waiting for him in Canada when he got out of prison in Tennessee.

HE TOLD ME many stories about a 30-odd-year-old French-Canadian or "Latin" named "Raoul" whom he met in Montreal. Ray said he twice carried narcotics for him across the border at Windsor-Detroit and was paid $750. Then Raoul came to Birmingham and gave him $3,000 to buy the Mustang and some camera equipment. Later, according to Ray, he met Raoul in New Orleans and in Laredo. There were probably several Raouls, accomplices of Ray in holdups and other money crimes. Ray bought a large quantity of marijuana in Mexico and disposed of it in some fashion.



immers (#128), a pair
hears (#CB7), *and* a
ng Scissors (#815) If
el *that* generous, give
of the three. For that
air of Wiss scissors or
a very fine gift, indeed.
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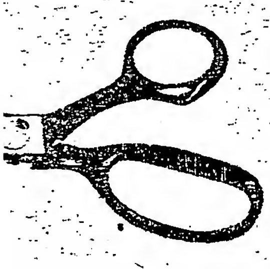

But there is nothing in Ray's behavior to indicate, nor has he ever claimed, that either he or Raoul or anybody else got any money for the last big job he was supposed to pull. I believe that Ray wanted to murder Dr. King for reasons other than money.

Since Ray apparently got no money after the murder, in seven months of dealing with him, I waited for him to show some sign of feeling that he was cheated, that he didn't get what he had been promised. Instead of bitterness or resentment, Ray has evidenced only an expanding self-satisfaction.

Ray seems to have spent about $12,000 between April 23, 1967, and June 8, 1968. There were a number of unsolved robberies of banks, loan companies and supermarkets in the areas through which Ray moved. Getting that much money would have been as easy for him as killing Dr. King from 205 feet.

I can't prove that no one gave him money to kill Dr. King. But I can prove that he could have gotten it in other ways.

The sixth misconception is that Ray, having been in prison so much of his life, is not a "racist" or "nigger-hater" and therefore could have been motivated only by money.

The record indicates to me that he is a "nigger-hater," even though he never evidenced this to Mr. Hanes. On April 5, 1958, Ray was released from the Federal prison at Leavenworth, Kan., with this item in his report: "On September 12, 1957, he was approved for our Honor Farm but was never actually transferred to the farm due to the fact that he did not feel that he could live in an Honor Farm Dormitory because they are integrated. He was therefore never given Honor status. He was assigned to our bakery where he has remained until his Conditional Release."

Bitter anti-Negro actions or remarks by Ray were reported to me by persons who knew him in Canada, Mexico and California.

A seventh possible misconception is that Ray is not a "killer" and is therefore probably incapable of

continued

"RAY WANTED TO WIN RECOGNITION."

AGAINST CONSPIRACY

BY PERCY FOREMAN ATTORNEY FOR JAMES EARL RAY

IF, IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, I ever summon a physician, and he arrives at my bedside and asks, "Are you sick?" I shall use my remaining energy to leave my bed and throw the fool out of my house. So when a man accused of murder sends for Percy Foreman, I show him the courtesy of assuming he is guilty and that he hopes I can save him from excessive punishment. Else why would he be preparing to divide his worldly goods, or hope of same, with me?

When, last November, the brothers of James Earl

jects: dropouts from the school of achievement, all of them afflicted by burning pride. They had energy, nerve, ambition, but they had more motor than brakes. And a defective steering apparatus. They belonged to the race of men that don't fit in.

They killed neither secretly nor for hire. True, after killing President Kennedy, Oswald fled. The instinct of self-preservation momentarily overcame that of self-realization. But Oswald was a pamphlet peddler. He had boasted to his wife of trying to murder Gen. Edwin A. Walker. Had he lived, he would have boasted of killing a President.

For a few hours, I represented Oswald's killer, Jack Ruby. He was a frustrated showman, successful only at showing off the backsides of itinerant girls. To perform before 50 million television viewers was a chance he couldn't resist.

Sirhan tells us in his diary that "we believe that the glorious United States of America will eventually be felled by a blow of an assassin's bullet. . . ."

WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE CONTINUED

having killed Dr. King. It's true that there is no previous murder in his record. But in 1966, Ray was given a thorough, six-weeks' psychiatric examination at the Fulton (Missouri) State Hospital. He was diagnosed as a "sociopathic personality, antisocial type with anxiety and depressive features."

The superintendent of the hospital at Fulton is Dr. D. B. Peterson. I asked him if James Earl Ray is capable of planned killing for money.

"Certainly he is," replied the Doctor. "Any man who commits armed robbery indicates that he may be willing to kill for gain if necessary. There is very little difference between armed robbery and planned killing for money."

I then asked: "Is Ray capable of killing in the hope of winning distinction? Approval? Is he capable of killing in the hope of relieving his anxiety, enhancing his self-respect?"

"Perhaps. He is so consumed with self-consideration that he is incapable of respecting the rights of any other individual."

When the misconceptions have been dispelled, at least partially, these questions still remain:

Was there a conspiracy?

Well, there are large conspiracies and little conspiracies. In large conspiracies, rich and/or powerful men are involved. Small conspiracies involve only little men. Last October, after working with Ray for two months, I thought that powerful men probably had made the decision to kill Dr. King. To date, I have found no confirmation of Ray's insinuations about this. Nor have I found believable evidence of any link between the murders of Dr. King and President Kennedy.

I believe that one or two men other than James Earl Ray may have had foreknowledge of this murder, and that makes a little conspiracy. But if there was a conspiracy, I now believe that James Earl Ray was probably its leader, not its tool or its dupe.

Ray sought me out and handed me a letter from him, beseeching me to represent him, I didn't fly to the Shelby County Jail in Memphis and run a gamut of guards to ask: "Jim, did you do it?" Because on Thursday, April 4, 1968, James Ray was prowling the vicinity of 422½ South Main with a deer rifle, and that is not one of the Volunteer State of Tennessee's several game preserves.

I assumed that Ray had sent for me not to spring him, but to try to save his life. I then, over several weeks, spent 40 hours in conversation with him, endeavoring to bring him to believe that I knew more about the law than he did, after which I saved his life in the only way I thought it could be saved. I consider this no mean achievement.

Why did Ray kill Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?

In public discussion, I normally leave the question of why to doctors of philosophy. If they won't defend criminals, I won't write essays. Here, I break my rule and offer a few pointed remarks.

The mouth-filling word "assassination" has been popularized by people who have forgotten its meaning. Others have defined it: An assassin is a secret killer for hire. Under the popular but incorrect definition, the deaths of President John F. Kennedy, Dr. King and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy are called assassinations. But they were not assassinations, they were killings; and Lee Harvey Oswald, James Earl Ray and Sirhan Bishara Sirhan were and are not assassins, but killers.

Why did they kill? They each wanted the world to hear of them. They wanted credit. Top billing. Headlines. Front-page pictures. A by-line. Self-realization. A shortcut to fame. To exercise the ego. To them, notoriety and fame are synonymous. What other men study, plan and struggle a lifetime to achieve, these killers thought they could win with lead.

What did they have to lose? They were social re-

Before he fled the murder scene, James Earl Ray, carefully watched by three witnesses, deposited on the sidewalk the murder rifle that he had wrapped in his own laundry-marked bedcover to protect his fingerprints on the rifle from obliteration. He also left a canvas bag containing his laundry-marked shirt and underwear, along with a transistor radio clearly bearing his identification number as a prisoner at the Missouri State Penitentiary.

Both rifle and bag he could have carried a few feet further and placed in his white Mustang. But that might have prevented his identification. He wanted to escape, but he didn't want to lose credit. As further precaution against such dreaded loss, he left his fingerprints in the side room that he had rented, and his palm print in the bathroom from which he fired the shot. All this by a man to whom fingerprinting had become a way of life.

A jury must consider the mental state of a defendant in determining his degree of guilt. So a defense lawyer must present his client's thinking as to the act charged. Had I not obtained a waiver of the death penalty for Ray, it would have been my duty to offer testimony as to Ray's beliefs about his victim, even though none of these was my own.

I think Ray believed Dr. King was a Communist; that his crusades had opened the Pandora's box of riot; and that, though he preached nonviolence, by indirection he created Black Muslims, Black Panthers and Invaders. Ray thinks that the war between the races is imminent, and he wanted to fire the first shot. The shooting of Dr. King, to him, was the Pearl Harbor of that war. He didn't tell me any of this: it is what I believe he thinks.

I don't believe there was any conspiracy. James Earl Ray wanted to win recognition. He hoped that by killing Martin Luther King, he could make the rest of his futile, boring life exciting.

Is there a chance that other questions may yet be answered?

Yes, I think so. Remember that there are still many fundamental unanswered questions.

And finally: *What was Ray's real motivation? Why did he want to kill Dr. King?*

A clue to the ultimate answer, I think, lies in this circumstance. On April 21, 1967, two days before his escape from the Missouri State Prison, Ray bought a six-transistor Channel Master radio in the prison commissary. He carried this radio with him when he broke out, and listened over it for the announcement of his escape. He then carried it with him on all his travels and adventures for over a year.

After he shot Dr. King, Ray rushed down the stairs, and threw the rifle on the sidewalk. Then, deliberately, he threw down beside the rifle a blue zipper bag in which there were several items, including his old companion in loneliness, the transistor radio. Ray knew that it clearly bore his prison I.D. No. 00416. He also left his fingerprints on the rifle, on the binoculars and in the room upstairs. In short, he purposefully left his calling card, telling the FBI that JAMES EARL RAY WAS HERE. That was his glory. He wanted the FBI and all of us to know that James Earl Ray, that poor, contemptible little man with a price of $50 on his head, had killed one of the great Americans of this century.

This is the state of our knowledge up to this point. But, more than a year after the murder of Dr. King, there still remain certain basic, nagging, unanswered questions, the result in good part of the deliberately elusive silence of James Earl Ray, who in this respect if no other is a remarkable man. Mr. Huie plans to continue his investigation, communicating with Ray, face to face if possible, and, as he uncovers further answers, will report on them in LOOK.

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L/S 12 MAR 69

RAY'S BIOGRAPHER NOW HAS DOUBTS OF CONSPIRACY

NEW YORK (AP)—William Bradford Huie, biographer of James Earl Ray, said yesterday that he now doubts that the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was the result of a conspiracy.

Huie, who interviewed Ray after his capture and wrote a series of magazine articles hinting at a conspiracy, said in an NBC television interview that he concluded early this year that Ray made the decision to kill King himself.

Ray pleaded guilty to the murder of King in a Memphis, Tenn., courtroom Monday.

Although he has now concluded that Ray himself made the decision to kill King, Huie added, "But I do not know this and Ray insists otherwise. Ray has a strange mind and a sharp one.

"He takes great satisfaction out of the fact that we still have doubts. That we still have unanswered questions. He wants continuing drama in his life," Huie said.

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U/S 13 MAR 69

Ray Quoted as Now Wishing He Had Undergone Full Trial

By the Associated Press

James Earl Ray, quoted as wishing now he had elected to undergo a full trial for the Martin Luther King assassination, was joined in his regrets today by the U.S. Justice Department.

A source in the department said the feeling there over Ray's abrupt guilty plea "is one of frustration." The reason: a full-fledged trial, had one been held, might have shed light on questions which have led to widespread suspicion around the country that Ray was only one figure in a conspiracy.

In Nashville, the Nashville Tennessean said in a copyright story that Ray disclosed second thoughts about the guilty plea within hours of his sentencing in Memphis to an agreed 99 years in prison. Ray also has inquired about how he could hire a new attorney, the paper said.

"Wish I Hadn't Now"

The story said unidentified official sources quoted Ray as saying:

"When I went to court Monday I was convinced if I didn't plead guilty I was going to the electric chair. I wish the hell I hadn't now because with what they had on me I believe the worst I'd gotten would have been life."

Under Tennessee law a life prisoner could be eligible for parole after 13 years 7 months, or even earlier if he earned maximum good behavior time. Under a 99-year sentence a prisoner must serve at least 30 years.

The Tennessean said a prison source further quoted Ray:

"My attorney and my brother told me about six weeks ago that the best thing for me to do was to plead guilty if we could work out a deal to keep me out of the chair. They told me they thought this could be done.

Government Informed

"I was thinking about it and every day they thought I would plead guilty. Last week I just told them if they thought this was best and what I ought to do, then I would plead guilty."

Ray was reported to have asked escorting officers during his trip from the Memphis jail to the Nashville penitentiary how he could hire another lawyer.

In Washington, Justice Department sources acknowledged the government was informed in advance that Ray would plead guilty and take 99 years.

But they denied the government was involved in any way with decisions leading up to the sudden move by Ray and his lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex.

The only federal action pending against Ray is an FBI charge issued in Birmingham, Ala., April 17, 1968, accusing him of conspiring "with a man alleged to be his brother" to violate King's civil rights in that state.

The charge was brought under an 1870 Reconstruction era statute and conviction would have carried a maximum 10-year sentence.

After Ray was apprehended last June in England, he was returned to Tennessee to face the more serious murder charge.

The government's only intrusion in the case since came Monday—after the trial ended—when the Justice Department announced the "conspiracy allagation is still open."

Meanwhile, on Capitol Hill, some senators joined newspapers across the country in insisting the conspiracy question be held open.

Probe by Senate Unit

Chairman James O. Eastland, D-Miss., said his Senate Internal Security subcommittee is investigating direct information of conspiracy in the King slaying.

"There are some things about this affair," Eastland declared, "that indicate to me there may have been a conspiracy."

After entering his plea of guilty Monday, Ray stood up and said he disagreed with the theory that no conspiracy was linked with the assassination. He did not elaborate.

Ray's original attorney, former Birmingham, Ala., mayor Arthur Hanes Jr., disagreed meanwhile with Foreman's belief as expressed in court Monday that no conspiracy existed.

Hanes was interviewed on the CBS evening news with Walter Crockite.

Hanes said there was no question in his mind that "there was a plot involved" in the killing. "Ray," said Hanes, "was a dupe."

The Alabama lawyer said the assassination "had to do not only with national politics, but international politics."

In Atlanta, the Rev. Andrew Young, executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference which King headed, said his organization was not consulted concerning Ray's guilty plea.

"We do want the investigation continued because we believe Ray was at most merely a tool or pawn," Young said. "We would hope that for the good of the country, the Justice Department would continue to investigate the case."

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WS 17 MAR 69

Ray Lawyer To Give Data On Conspiracy

NEW YORK (AP)—Memphis attorney Russell X. Thompson confers today with representatives of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund to present what he calls evidence of a conspiracy in the death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Thompson, along with two private investigators, had been hired by James Earl Ray, King's convicted killer, and Ray's first lawyer, Arthur Hanes, to investigate the murder.

Ray pleaded guilty in the slaying and was sentenced to 99 years in prison. His attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston, denied that Ray was part of a conspiracy to murder the civil rights leader. But Ray, in open court, took issue with Foreman and hinted of a conspiracy.

Jack Greenberg, director of the Legal Defense Fund, said Thompson asked for the meeting on his own initiative and at his own expense.

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WS 20 MAR 69

New Hearing Bid by Ray Acknowledged by Judge

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray has notified the judge who sentenced him to 99 years in prison that he plans to seek a hearing soon to review his guilty plea in the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Published reports say he now wants to withdraw the plea and stand trial for first-degree murder.

Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle Jr. disclosed yesterday that he had received the letter from Ray in the Tennessee State Penitentiary. The judge would say only that Ray wants the new hearing and that he wrote that he has fired his lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex.

Foreman, in New York City, could not be reached for comment immediately.

Ray pleaded guilty March 10. The 99-year sentence was prearranged by the state and Foreman, and Ray began serving his time in the state prison the next day.

Foreman told the court when Ray pleaded guilty he had agreed to the plea "to save this man's life." First-degree murder in Tennessee is punishable by sentences ranging from 20 years to electrocution.

As things now stand, Ray will be eligible to seek parole in 33 years. Should he draw a life sentence he would be eligible for parole in 12 years and seven months — earlier if he gets maximum good behavior time.

Legal authorities said Ray probably will have to file a writ of habeas corpus claiming his rights somehow were denied. No such writ is on file in the office of the Criminal Court clerk.

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WS 23 MAR 69

Ray Pressured Into Plea Of Guilty, Says Attorney

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI)— Attorney J. B. Stoner visited James Earl Ray in his prison cell yesterday and later said Ray did not kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but had been "pressured into pleading guilty."

Stoner, once the vice presidential candidate of the National States Rights Party and a former organizer for the Ku Klux Klan, met with Ray for more than two hours in the maximum security section of the Tennessee State Prison.

He said he was not representing Ray in criminal matters but was handling several libel suits that Ray intends to file against several national magazines which made "false and defamatory" charges against him.

"He (Ray) is not guilty," Stoner said. "He told me he was pressured into pleading guilty." Stoner would no elaborate on the charge.

Ray escaped any possibility of dying in the electric chair when he swapped a guilty plea two weeks ago for a 99-year sentence in the April 4, 1968, sniper slaying of King at Memphis.

Wrote to Judge

Ray has written the trial judge, Preston Battle, asking for a post-conviction hearing—to which he is entitled under Tennessee law—and intends to ask for an opportunity to change his plea and a new trial.

In trading his guilty plea for the life sentence, Ray waived the right to appeal but legal authorities said there were other ways he could keep his case alive. He apparently intends to pursue them.

Ray has not said who his attorney would be in such proceedings, but Arthur Hanes Sr., former mayor of Birmingham, Ala., said he had received a letter from Ray asking for assistance.

Hanes represented Ray in the initial phases of the case, but Ray dropped him just before he first was to be tried and hired famed criminal lawyer Percy Foreman.

Foreman advised Ray to enter a guilty plea, a move which Ray apparently regretted almost as soon as he made it. Stoner said Ray had written to him the first day after he was transferred here from Memphis, where the trial was held.

Hint of Conspiracy

During the brief trial Ray hinted strongly that a conspiracy was involved in the slaying of King, who was shot while he stood on a motel balcony.

Memphis police said yesterday the murder was so ineptly carried out that it was hard to believe there was a conspiracy.

Police Chief Henry Lux, supporting earlier statements made by Police Capt. R. A. Cochran, said: "We are not saying flatly there was no conspiracy. Nobody can say that with certainty. I certainly agree with Cochran that Ray made so many blunders it is hard to believe that there was a mastermind behind the plot or that he had any help in Memphis."

Cochran said he was "amazed that so many people still insist on the conspiracy theory. . ."

He said Ray blundered in purchasing the death rifle himself, taking the first rifle back and exchanging it, personally having a telescopic site mounted on the gun, and personally buying his getaway car.

Cochran said Ray could have selected the rooming house from where the fatal shot was fired simply by driving through the area.

"When you drive past (the motel), those windows of the rooming houses stare right at you," Cochran said. "All you had to do was drive around on Main Street to find the 'for rent' signs."

He also pointed out that the name of King's motel and his room number had been printed in the morning newspapers of April 4. He said Ray apparently had no idea when King would appear on the balcony, but was prepared for a long wait.

"He took his toilet articles, his underwear and a half a dozen cans of beer (into the rooming house). He never even got a chance to open the beer.

"Dr. King appeared on the balcony long before Ray expected him to and when he did Ray made his decision to shoot in a hurry," Cochran said.

After the shooting Ray hastily bundled up all his belongings into a bedspread — then panicked and dropped the bundle when he got outside and saw a policeman talking on his car radio.

"You could go to any beer joint and pick up a man with intelligence enough to do what Ray did," Cochran said.

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WS 24 MAR 69

New Trial Plea by Ray Called Near

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI) — A motion seeking a new trial for James Earl Ray will be filed in Memphis "possibly this week," according to Ray's brother, who said Ray would plead not guilty to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"A decision will be made within the next three days on exactly what the petition will say and who will file it," said Jerry Ray in a copyrighted story in the Nashville Tennessean yesterday. "We are considering two attorneys."

The lawyers were identified as J. B. Stoner of Savannah, Ga., the 1964 vice presidential candidate for the National States Rights Party, and A. J. Ryman of Memphis.

Ray Visited in Prison

Stoner visited Ray in his cell at the Tennessee State Prison Saturday where he is serving a 99-year sentence after pleading guilty to King's murder. The Georgia lawyer said Ray was innocent and had been "pressured into pleading guilty."

Jerry Ray, who also visited his brother Saturday, said he delivered "evidence" to support a claim that Ray's former attorney, Percy Foreman, had "pressured him" into pleading guilty, according to the Tennessean.

Ray said the evidence, described as personal contracts between his brother and Foreman, will be used in the petition for a new trial.

Foreman said he advised Ray to plead guilty "because I believed he would be electrocuted if he didn't." He said Ray "thought he'd be electrocuted, too" and sent Foreman a letter officially requesting the plea.

Letter Shown to Judge

"I have the letter and I showed it to the judge (W. Preston Battle) and the prosecuting attorney," Foreman said.

Jerry Ray said Foreman told his brother he would take $150,000 if he pleaded guilty, "but he wanted everything he (Ray) would ever earn if he didn't (plead guilty)."

Foreman, contacted in Houston, said: "That's a bunch of bull. How is some man doing 99 years gonna make anything?"

The Tennessean said Foreman stated he took over the same financial arrangements that existed between Ray and his first attorney, Arthur Hanes. He said the original contract called for author William Bradford Huie to receive 40 percent of all pictures, book and magazine rights to Ray's story with Ray and Hanes splitting the rest. He said Ray was to sign over his share to Hanes as attorney's fees.

Second Agreement

Foreman said that when Ray decided to plead guilty he suggested to Ray that the fee be adjusted and Ray signed a second agreement to pay him $150,000, a figure suggested by Ray. The picture rights to Ray already have been sold for $175,000, plus 13 percent of the receipts, Foreman said.

Memphis police said Saturday King's murder was so ineptly carried out it was hard to believe there was a conspiracy.

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WS 01 APR 69

Judge in Ray Case Is Dead; New Trial Now More Likely

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Judge W. Preston Battle has died of a heart attack, raising the possibility that Tennessee may have to give James Earl Ray the trial by jury he now says he wants.

The 60-year-old judge, who accepted Ray's plea of guilty March 10 to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and sentenced him to 99 years in prison, was found dead in his chambers last night.

After the trial Battle disclosed that Ray had written from the state penitentiary advising he wanted to withdraw his plea and stand trial.

State Law Explained

Charles Galbreath, a Tennessee Appeals Court judge, said today that if the letter is construed as a motion for a new trial, the state would have to give Ray one. He said such a motion must be granted under state law if the trial judge dies or is judged insane while the case is pending.

In the case of a petition for a writ of habeas corpus—where a prisoner claims his rights were violated — Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice Hamilton Burnett said Battle's death would have no effect on the case.

JUDGE W. PRESTON BATTLE

"It makes no difference at all," Burnett said, adding that a petition of this kind could be filed with another judge.

Criminal Court Clerk James A. Blackwell said that no motion for a new trial nor a writ of habeas corpus was on file in his office. He said Ray would almost certainly have been entitled to a new trial if Battle had not signed the minutes of the March 10 hearing where the guilty plea was made.

But Blackwell said that was a detail the judge had completed.

Prosecutor Finds Body

Battle's body was found by James Beasley, an assistant district attorney general who was one of the prosecutors in Ray's case.

Beasley said he had tried unsuccessfully to reach Battle during the afternoon and noticed lights still on in the chambers in the Criminal Court-county jail building when leaving for home. He said he opened the door to the chambers and found Battle slumped over his desk.

A heart attack was given as the cause of death after an autopsy by Dr. Jerry T. Francisco, the county medical examiner who did the postmortem on Dr. King.

The county's four other criminal judges, along with city and county homicide officers, spent several hours in Battle's chambers late last night. They emerged with boxes filled with papers which a court official said would be locked in a safe.

"We don't want Ray to tell us later he wrote something to Judge Battle and it disappeared," said Beasley.

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NEW YORK (AP)
James Earl Ray thought a
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ford Huie syas. Ray expec
ed Wallace would then pa
don him, according to Hui

Huie, an Alabaman w
bought publication rights
the story of Ray's life, sa
Ray considers himself a p
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James Earl Ray was prol
bly its leader, not its tool
its dupe."

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Second Letter to Judge By Ray Is Discovered

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Judges studying the late Judge W. Preston Battle's personal files yesterday discovered a second letter from James Earl Ray. Ray said the letter was notice of an intent to seek reversal of his 99-year sentence for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The letters turned up as the four surviving judges of the Shelby County Criminal Court sought to determine whether Battle's files contained anything that could be considered a motion by Ray for a new trial.

Battle, 59, died Monday of a heart attack.

Letter Cites Intent

He had handed down the sentence after Ray pleaded guilty March 10 to the sniper slaying last April 4 of King, who was in Memphis to aid the city's striking garbage workers.

The second letter, dated March 26, stated:

"I would respectfully request this court to treat this letter as a legal notice, of an intent to ask for a reversal of the 99-year sentence petitioner received in aforementioned court."

Whether this statement constitutes a request for a new trial would have to be determined judicially.

The four judges huddled with prosecution officials after discovery of the second letter yesterday, but none would say what, if any, conclusion was reached.

Judge Charles Galbreath of the State Court of Criminal Appeals said after Battle's death that a new trial would be automatic if Ray had asked for it since Battle died before giving a ruling.

The contents of Ray's letters were revealed by Criminal Court Clerk, James A. Blackwell, who took custody of Battle's official papers to be filed as part of the court's records.

Earlier Letter Known

Battle had acknowledged receipt of a March 19 letter from Ray and had divulged some of its contents, including Ray's wish for a new trial. The judge never had revealed that he had received a second letter.

Chief Justice Hamilton Burnett of the Tennessee Supreme Court said, however, that Ray's letters even if construed as motions, do not automatically guarantee a new trial.

"The new trial plea is one of the rights Ray waived in pleading guilty, along with his right of appeal to other state courts," said Burnett.

In open court, Ray was asked repeatedly by Battle whether he understood that such a plea precluded appeals. He said he did.

Ray has claimed since, however that he was pressured into his guilty plea.

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WS 04 APR 69

JUDGE ARTHUR FAQUIN

Ray Acquires 3rd Lawyer, New Judge

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray has hired hi- [illegible] defense attorney, and a [illegible] judge has bee named to preside over wha promise to be complicated proceedings in the case.

Ray, who pleaded guilt March 10 to killing Dr. Marti Luther King Jr. a year ago today and was sentenced to 99 years, gained certification yesterday for his new lawyer, Richard C. Ryan of Memphis.

Ryan's job will be to try to get Ray the new hearing of the case Ray says he wants.

The job of Criminal Court Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr., is to rule on any motions or arguments Ryan might present. The judge, easy-going and with a good sense of humor, was named yesterday to replace Judge W. Preston Battle Jr., who died Monday of a heart attack.

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12.

Court Asked To Void Ray Contracts

NASHVILLE, Tenn., April 11 (AP)—A lawyer for James Earl Ray asked U.S. District Court Judge William E. Miller today to void Ray's contract with the lawyer who represented him when he pleaded guilty to the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

At the same time the attorney asked for nullification of Ray's contract with William Bradford Huie, Alabama author, for the story of Ray's life. Several stories relating to this contract have appeared in Look magazine.

Robert W. Hill Jr. of Chattanooga, Tenn., asked a preliminary injunction against Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex., the lawyer, and Huie. He asked for an early hearing on an injunction against "any and all contracts and powers of attorney negotiated with Ray."

Ray, serving a 99-year sentence in King's death, now is seeking a new trial on a charge of first-degree murder.

WS 13 APR 69

Ray Attorney Says He Has New Evidence

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (UPI) — James Earl Ray's new attorney says he believes his client is innocent in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and that he is prepared to present "new evidence" at a hearing Wednesday.

Attorney Robert Hill noted that Criminal Court Judge Arthur Faquin has said he will decide in Memphis then when he will hear arguments on Ray's motions for a new trial.

Hill said he wasn't sure whether Faquin would take new evidence at that time, but if so, "I do have new evidence in the case." The nature of the evidence was not disclosed.

The attorney said Ray's brother, Jerry, would be available to testify, and that Jerry "had a good portion of proof and will cooperate."

Hill filed a petition in U.S. District Court in Nashville on Friday charging that Ray was "pressured" into pleading guilty to the King slaying to protect the story and movie rights to his life—rights that Hill said might be worth "millions of dollars."

The lawyer asked the District Court to void the contracts that Ray previously made with trial lawyer Percy Foreman, author William Bradford Huie, and another lawyer, former Birmingham Mayor Arthur Hanes Sr.

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FBI Asked About Plot, Ray's Brother Reports

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A brother of the man convicted of killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. says FBI agents questioned him yesterday about whether a conspiracy was involved in the assassination of the civil rights leader.

Jerry Ray, younger brother of admitted assassin James Earl Ray, said men identifying themselves as FBI agents approached him at the jail where he was visiting his brother.

The elder Ray, who pleaded guilty March 10 to King's death and was sentenced to 99 years, will appear at a hearing Monday on his motion for a new trial.

Asked to Explain

Jerry Ray said he was asked to explain why he said last year there was a conspiracy in King's death.

"I didn't tell them anything," Jerry Ray said he told them, on advice of an attorney.

"They asked a question on the conspiracy statement I wouldn't answer it and they threatened to bring me before a federal grand jury. They said if I didn't talk then, I would be held in contempt."

Investigators have maintained that a conspiracy was not involved in King's death.

Asked about the younger Ray's report, Special Agent Robert G. Jensen, Memphis FBI district chief, said, "We're making inquiries all the time into all sorts of things."

Jensen declined to confirm that his men questioned Jerry Ray, but said one of the agents named by Ray was under his jurisdiction.

In another development yesterday, Judge Arthur Faquin Jr. of Criminal Court, who will preside at Monday's hearing, dismissed contempt of court citations against seven men in the Ray case.

Cited Under Ban

The late Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle, who accepted Ray's guilty plea, had imposed a strict publicity ban on the case. He issued the citations for alleged violations of the ban by Arthur J. Hanes, Ray's first attorney; Renfro T. Hays, a private investigator, and two Memphis newspaper reporters, Charles Edmundson of the Commercial Appeal, and Roy Hamilton of the Memphis Press-Scimitar.

Faquin, who took over the case after Battle's death in March, acted at the recommendation of a special bar association committee on publicity which Battle had created.

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WS 27 MAY 69

Ray Loses Bid For New Trial In King Death

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray was returned to his maximum-security prison cell after losing a bid for a new trial in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"This hearing was only the beginning," said Richard J. Ryan of Memphis, one of Ray's three new lawyers. Ryan said he will take the case to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals.

Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr. of Criminal Court in Memphis held yesterday that Ray waived any right of appeal when he entered a guilty plea March 10 in the shooting of King.

"It is the opinion of this court that the guilty plea entered was properly . . . knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily entered," Faquin said in a written order. "Judge Battle had ample evidence in finding that the defendant was fully advised and has waived, intelligently and understandingly, his rights to a motion for a new trial."

Judge W. Preston Battle died three weeks after accepting Ray's plea of guilty in exchange for a 99-year prison sentence.

Ray sought a new trial on grounds he was coerced by his former lawyers into pleading guilty. He charged that his original lawyers were more interested in writing and selling stories about the death of King than in seeing that he received a fair trial.

Ray, 41, was whisked out of Memphis last evening and escorted to Tennessee State Prison here by police cars.

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WS 31 MAY 69

Avery Tells Of Offer Made to Ray

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Fired state corrections commissioner Harry S. Avery says he told James Earl Ray he would "go and get" any money Ray had "stashed away" and deposit it in a trust fund for him.

The offer, Avery said last night, was part of his attempt to "get at the full truth" in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., for which Ray is serving 99 years in state prison.

Avery, contacted by telephone while on a fishing trip at Cookeville, Tenn., says Ray "commented at some length about it (the offer), but I don't intend to say anything about his comments . . . since he has attorneys trying to get him a new trial."

Avery, fired Thursday by Gov. Buford Ellington, said he "talked to Ray at great length" after Ray, who pleaded guilty March 10 to killing King, was brought to the prison.

Avery said Ray told him "a conspiracy existed" in the King death, but refused to elaborate on what, if any, details Ray might have given him.

"I told him that if he wanted to tell me the full truth about this in his own handwriting and if anyone was interested in purchasing it, I would see that every nickel that anyone paid was placed in his trust fund," Avery said.

Avery had said previously he believed a plot existed at the prison to kill Ray should he be released from maximum security.

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RAY ADMITS GUILT IN DR. KING DEATH; SUGGESTS A PLOT

Judge Sets 99-Year Term After a Jury of 12 Men Agrees to Arrangement

A CONSPIRACY DISPUTED

Both Prosecutor and Defense Doubt That There Was One Despite Slayer's Protest

By MARTIN WALDRON

Special to The New York Times

MEMPHIS, March 10—James Earl Ray pleaded guilty today to murdering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and was sentenced to serve 99 years in the Tennessee State Prison in Nashville.

The sentence was imposed by Judge W. Preston Battle in Criminal Court after a brief presentation of evidence against the defendant to a jury of 12 men.

The jury had agreed in advance to the arrangement by the state and the defense for a plea of guilty.

Both the prosecutor, Memphis Attorney General P. M. Canale, and Ray's counsel, Percy Foreman, told the court that there was no evidence Ray had been involved in a conspiracy.

Ray himself refused to accept these statements.

In a tense moment in the proceedings, Ray leaped to his feet and declared that he did not intend that his plea of guilty should include a finding that there was no conspiracy.

Had Faced Death

Had Ray pleaded not guilty and been convicted of first-degree murder in the full-scale trial that had been scheduled for April 7, he could have been sentenced to death.

If he had received a life sentence, he would have been eligible for parole in 13 years. Under the 99-year sentence, he will not be eligible for parole until he serves half his term.

The disagreement between Ray and the lawyers appeared to many observers to leave unresolved the question of whether a conspiracy was involved in the killing of Dr. King last April 4 at a motel here.

Mr. Foreman said it had taken him a month to become convinced that there was no conspiracy. The Texas lawyer said it had taken former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and J. Edgar Hoover, the di-

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New York Times
10 MAR 69

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ing and Is Sentenced to 99 Years in Prison

But he said that he doubted if Ray had escaped from the Missouri State Prison with the idea of killing the civil rights leader, although the prosecution did have some evidence that Ray had made racist remarks while in the prison.

Origin of Money

Mr. Canale said there was no reason to assume that the money that Ray spent so freely during the year he was free had come from co-conspirators.

Ray, he said, had sent a large amount of money out of the Missouri State Prison while he was an inmate there. There was a report that Ray had sold drugs while he was an inmate in the prison.

When the court hearing began today, five Negroes had managed to get into the courtroom as spectators. They sat quietly throughout the proceedings, which began at 9:45 A.M., 15 minutes late.

Reporters and spectators had been brought to the courtroom before 8:30 A. M. after being searched from head to foot by hand and by machine.

Mr. Forman arrived before 9 o'clock. He smiled and bowed to a few women in the courtroom, then sat down in one of a row of chairs at the side of the 24-by-32-foot courtroom.

'The Last Supper'

He looked at two large tables containing smale models of the Lorraine Hotel and Motel, where Dr. King was staying when he was murdered, and of the rooming house where Ray was living when he fired the fatal shot.

"It looks like the last supper," Mr. Foreman said.

Mr. Foreman was wearing a dark gray suit, a dark shirt and a gray and blue tie. The effect was one of solidity, making him appear even larger than his 250 pounds.

As he waited for Ray to be brought to the courtroom, Mr. Foreman reread the petition that he planned to file before the judge asking that Ray's not guilty plea be set aside and that Ray be allowed to plead guilty.

Ray's brother John, whom Ray calls Jack and who visited Ray the day before Ray escaped from the Missouri State Prison in 1967, came into the courtroom and sat in the section reserved for spectators.

Armloads of Exhibits

At 9:30 A.M., as spectators were trying to find easier resting places on the hard theater seats that were put in the courtroom especially for the Ray trial, deputies began bringing in armloads of exhibits — a long shotgun box, a large red and black checkered suitcase, and a small blue valise.

About 15 minutes later, Ray, escorted by five deputies, was brought into the court through a rear door. He was wearing a rumpled blue suit, a tattle-tale-gray white shirt, a blue tie and black shoes. He walked as if his feet hurt him. He was not wearing theb lack horn-rimmed glasses that he used as a disguise when he fled to Canada last April after Dr. King was murdered.

Ray sat down by Mr. Foreman, who moved to join him at the defense counsel table. The two men, who had continued to argue through last night over whether Ray should accept the inevitable and plead guilty, did not talk to each other while waiting for the judge.

After Judge Battle had opened court, Mr. Foreman rose and asked that Ray be allowed to change his plea and plead guilty. He said that both he and Ray had already signed a petition asking for this and that the Memphis public defender, Hugh W. Stanton, and his son, Hugh Jr., appinted as co-counsel by the judge for Ray, were prepared to sign the petition.

After Mr. Canale said he agreed to accept the guilty plea and was recommending a sentence of 99 years, Judge Battle motioned Ray to his feet.

Explanation on Rights

After explaining to Ray that he had various legal rights, such as appeals, that he might lose if he pleaded guilty, Judge Battle said to Ray: "Is this what you want to do?"

"Yes," said Ray. "I believe so."

"Has anything besides this sentence of 99 years been promised to you?"

"Not that I know of."

The judge asked Ray if anyone had pressured him to plead guilty to Dr. King's murder.

"No, no one."

"Did you kill Dr. King under such circumstances that it would make you legally guilty of murder in the first degree under the law as explained to you by your lawyer?"

"Yes," said Ray. "I am pleading guilty."

Procedure Outlined

Ray seemed to be having a little trouble with his voice. It came through clearly but without much force behind it. It almost squeaked.

Ray's hair, which had been groomed close to his head, began to stick up in the rear as his hair dressing dried.

The jury, which was impaneled after the judge finished questioning Ray, included two Negroes. The first 12 names called from a regular jury venire already on duty in the courthouse were picked and the men brought into the courtroom and seated in the jury box.

The prosecutor, Mr. Canale, explained briefly to the jury what was happening. In Tennessee, he said, a jury must find a defendant guilty in a murder case even if the defendant pleads guilty.

The state had agreed to accept the guilty plea and would recommend a sentence of 99 years, the judge said.

"Can each of you accept that?" Mr. Canale said in asking the jurors if they would be guided by his recommendation. Each of the jurors nodded.

Before beginning the testimony to prove Dr. King's murdre, Mr. Canale attempted to dispose of the persistent reports that Ray was hired to assassinate Dr. King.

"There have been rumors going around that Mr. James Earl Ray was a dupe, a fall guy, or a member of a conspiracy," Mr. Canale said.

"We have no proof other than that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed by James Earl Ray and James Earl Ray alone."

Mr. Canale said that he and his staff had read 5,000 pages of reports from police officers —local, state and national. He said they had examined 300 pieces of evidence. And three members of his staff had traveled thousands of miles in the United States, Mexico, Canada and Portugal, he said.

"We have no evidence that there was any conspiracy involved," he said. "If we are ever presented competent evidence that there was a conspiracy, we will take prompt action."

Mr. Foreman followed Mr. Canale before the jury. Mr. Foreman wanted to question each juror individually to make sure that none would refuse to go along with the deal of 99 years in return for a guilty plea.

Prosecutor and Judge Praised

He also took the opportunity to try to prevent Ray's guilty plea from tarnishing his own remarkable record of winning favorable verdicts in murder trials, and to declare that he, also, did not believe there was a conspiracy.

"I neve rexpected, hoped or had any idea that I could accomplish anything but saving this man's life," Mr. Foreman said.

He said that he had reached the conclusion that there was no conspiracy after more than 50 hours of conversation with Ray and a check of every minute of Ray's time and every expenditure of more than 50 cents made by Ray.

Mr. Foreman praised Mr. Canale and Judge Battle for agreeing to allow Ray to plead guilty and take 99 years.

The prosecutor, Mr. Foreman said, "is as big as his office. He is a man not concerned with scalps on his belt and is not trying to make a record to run for some other office on."

Judge Battle, Mr. Foreman said, "is a compassionate and human judge."

Ray's comments about conspiracy came when Mr. Foreman had finished talking to the jury.

After the judge had disposed of Ray's remarks, the state began putting on its abbreviated case.

In proving that Dr. King had been murdered, the state called five witnesses—the Rev. Samuel B. Kyles, a Negro minister from Memphis; Chauncey Eskridge, a Negro lawyer from Chicago; Dr. Jerry T. Francisco, the Memphis medical examiner; Inspector N. E. Zachary of the Memphis Police Department homicide squad, and Robert G. Jensen, the special agent in charge of the Memphis office of the F.B.I.

Mr. Kyles, who had invited Dr. King to come to his home on the evening of April 4, 1968, for a "soul food" dinner, said he was about five or six steps from Dr. King on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel and Motel when the rifle bullet his Dr. King in the right side of his neck, knocking him off his feet.

Heard Fatal Shot

Mr. Eskridge, the attorney for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which Dr. King headed, said that he heard the fatal shot "zing" overhead. Mr. Eskridge was walking down to the parking lot below Dr. King.

Dr. Francisco said that an autopsy showed that the rifle bullet killed the civil rights leader almost immediately.

Inspector Zachary said that he had found a rifle, which was later determined to be the murder weapon, and several other articles on the sidewalk about a block from the Lorraine Motel almost in front of the rooming house where Ray had registered earlier that afternoon.

The inspector identified the objects found with the rifle as being a plastic zipper bag, two cans of Schlitz beer, a pair of binoculars and a binocular case, a T-shirt, a pair of men's underdrawers, a pasteboard box, a hairbrush, a transistor radio, a pair of pliers, a hammer, a paper bag, and a copy of the April 4, 1968, edition of the newspaper, The Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

Ray Pleads Guilty to the Murder of Dr. K

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

rector of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, less than one day after the laying to conclude there was no conspiracy.

Ray 'Can't Agree'

A transcript of Ray's remarks today showed that he said, "Your honor, I would like to say something. I don't want to change anything that I have said, but I just want to enter one other thing. The only thing I have to say is that I can't agree with Mr. Clark."

Mr. Foreman interrupted to say, "Ramsey Clark."

"Mr. who?" asked the judge.

"Mr. J. Edgar Hoover," said Ray. "I agree with all these stipulations, but I am not trying to change anything."

"You don't agree with whose theories?" asked the judge.

"Mr. Canale's, Mr. Clark's, and Mr. J. Edgar Hoover's about the conspiracy. I don't want to add something on that I haven't agreed to in the past," said Ray.

Attorney Interprets

"I think that what he said is that he doesn't agree that Ramsey Clark is right or that J. Edgar Hoover is right," said Mr. Foreman to the judge. "I didn' argue that as evidence in this case. I simply stated that—underwriting the statement of General Canale—that they had made the same statement. Your are not required to agree with it all, Jim."

"You still—your answers to those questions that I asked you would still be the same?" the judge asked Ray. "Is that correct? There is nothing in these questions that I have asked you and your answers to them—you changed none of them at all? In other words, you are pleading guilty to and taking 99 years?"

"Yes, sir," said Ray.

"I think the main question that I want to ask you is this: are you pleading guilty to murder in the first degree in this case because you killed Dr. Martin Luther King under such circumstances that it would make you legally guilty of murder in the first degree under the law as explained to you by your lawyer? Your answer is still yes?"

"Yes, sir," said Ray.

So the moment, when the courtroom sat expecting Ray to repudiate the agreement that had been in the works since Feb. 21, passed without Ray's pressing forward.

Ray was confined in a Memphis County jail this afternoon after the guilty plea was entered and the state had pre- [illegible] much of its evidence in [illegible]rts before a jury. [illegible] N. Morris Jr. said that Ray would be transferred to the state prison at any time.

Judge Battle, who was chosen last summer to try the Ray case, said he believed that the settlement of 99 years was a "just one to both defendant and the state."

The judge said to those who had cried out for Dr. King's slayer to be sentenced to the electric chair that "all the trends in this country are in the direction of doing away with capital punishment altogether."

"How about conspiracy and the punishment of any co-conspirators?" the judge asked. "It has been estabished that the prosecution at this time is not in possession of enough evidence to indict anyone as a co-conspirator in this case. Of course, this is not conclusive evidence that there was no conspiracy.

"If this defendant was a member of a conspiracy to kill the decedent, no member of such conspiracy can ever live in peace or security or lie down to pleasant dreams, because in this state there is no statute of limitations in capital cases such as this.

"And while it is not always the case, my 35 years in these criminal courts have convinced me that in the great majority of cases, Hamlet was right when he said: 'For murder though it have no tongue, will speak with most miraculous organ.'"

In a long interview after the conclusion of the case, Mr. Canale gave this answer to a question as to why the state would accept a guilty plea from Ray:

"We decided at the start of this case to treat it just as we would any other."

And, he said, it has been his policy since he became the Memphis prosecutor, to accept guilty pleas and recommend punishment.

Except for Ray's outburst over whether there was a conspiracy, the proceedings today went according to the script.

There was some disagreement over what Ray had meant when he refused to accept the declarations that there was no conspiracy.

One interpretation was that Ray had agreed with Mr. Foreman to plead guilty without explaining his actions or mentioning any possible conspiracy.

The other interpretation was that Ray was trying to say that there had been a conspiracy but that he was so deeply involved that he was guilty of first degree murder even though he may have been acting at another's direction.

None of the court official would try to explain Ray's remarks although Mr. Foreman his attorney, soft-pedled them.

Unexplained Incidents

The prosecution acknowledged thatt here were a numbe of unexplained incidents tha might make it appear Ray may have had some help in planning Dr. King's murder. But these incidents may have been related to other illegal activities such as the smuggling activities that Ray had engaged in in both Canada and Mexico before Dr. King's death, Mr. Canale said.

He said that the state had evidence that Ray had smuggled narcotics into the United States from Canada, and jewelry either into or from Mexico.

Ray also committed at least two robberies in Canada and one in England during his flight, Mr. Canale said. The prosecutor dismissed a report that Ray had robbed a bank of $27,000 in July, 1967, in Alton, Ill.

The prosecutor said that the state had no evidence to indicate when Ray had decided to kill Dr. King. He said it may have been as early as two weeks before the April 4 slaying or even before that.

Associated Press

Judge W. Preston Battle, center, who presided at the brief trial of James Earl Ray, reading a statement to newsmen after Ray was sentenced yesterday. Flanking him are Sheriff William Morris, left, and Phil M. Canale, the Shelby County (Memphis) Attorney General.

18.

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NY TIMES - 7MAR69

Ray Is Reported Planning To Plead Guilty Monday

Court Schedules Hearing at Request of Lawyer for Dr. King Murder Suspect —Deal for 99-Year Term Hinted

Special to The New York Times

MEMPHIS, March 7—Circuit Judge W. Preston Battle today scheduled a court hearing for [illegible] Saturday for James Earl Ray.

Unconfirmed reports in Memphis were that Ray would plead guilty to the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and would receive a sentence of 99 years in prison.

Judge Battle said that the hearing had been requested by Percy Foreman, the Houston lawyer who has represented Ray, an escaped Missouri convict, since last Nov. 12.

Judge Battle said that Mr. Foreman had asked that Ray be present, but the judge refused to state the purpose of the hearing.

Mr. Foreman met in Memphis this morning with Gerald and John Ray, brothers of the murder suspect, before making his request.

In reply to questions, Mr. Foreman would not comment on the report that Ray would plead guilty. He said that he was still Ray's attorney but beyond that he could not comment, because of the judge's orders that the case was not to be discussed publicly.

Charles Holmes, a Memphis State University official who has been acting as press adviser to Judge Battle, said that the judge had authorized a statement that the unusual court appearance had been scheduled but that no further official information would be released. The judge was reported to be very upset that speculation had arisen about

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the possibility of Ray pleading guilty.

If Ray is allowed to plead guilty, his case must still be heard by a jury. Under Tennessee law, in murder cases in which a death penalty could be imposed, the prosecution must present proof that the murder was committed and that the defendant probably committed it.

[The Associated Press quoted The Huntsville (Ala.) Times as saying that the court would accept a guilty plea and recommend a sentence of 99 years after hearing a prima facie case involving only a few witnesses. The Times article said that under this procedure the jury would be allowed to leave the courtroom to confirm the sentence.]

The report of Ray's decision to plead guilty came after speculation that Ray had been hired to kill Dr. King, the civil rights leader and Nobel Prize winner. If the reported plan is followed, the prosecution will presumably have no opportunity to present evidence of a conspiracy.

Longer Than Life Term

A 99-year sentence might be longer punishment than life imprisonment in Tennessee. The Tennessee Attorney General's office said that persons sentenced to life imprisonment were eligible for parole after 13 years, but a defendant with a 99-year sentence would not be eligible for parole until half his sentence had been served.

Dr. King was slain by a rifle shot fired from a $1-a-day hotel on Memphis's south side at 6:01 P.M. last April 4.

Ray, who was using various aliases, including Eric Starvo Galt, was arrested last June in London and was extradited to the United States in July. Until Nov. 12, when his trial was first scheduled to start, Ray was represented by Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., a former Mayor of Birmingham and a sometime attorney for the Ku Klux Klan.

Mr. Foreman, a successful criminal lawyer who has a long series of successful courtroom appearances in behalf of persons charged with murder, took over the case after Ray dismissed Mr. Hanes in court.

After Mr. Foreman took over, Ray's trial was scheduled for last Monday. It was rescheduled for April 7 after Mr. Foreman became sick.

In two articles that appeared in Look magazine last fall, an Alabama author, William Bradford Huie, reported that Ray had told him that he had been hired by a blond Cuban named Raoul to assassinate Dr. King.

Mr. Huie reported that Ray had said he had traveled to Birmingham, Ala., Los Angeles, New Orleans and to several cities in Mexico while awaiting final instructions on the murder.

According to the author Ray said that he had first been approached by Raoul, the blond Cuban, in Montreal in the summer of 1967 but he had not been told by Raoul that Dr. King was to be murdered until early in 1968.

Mr. Huie appeared before a Memphis grand jury last month. He has been cited by Judge Battle for contempt of court for writing about details of the case while it was pending trial.

Ray, who was serving a 20-year sentence for robbery and for being a confirmed criminal, escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City in the spring of 1967.

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19.

New York Times 8 MAR 69

Ray Must Face Trial by Jury Even if Guilty Plea Is Entered

By MARTIN WALDRON
Special to The New York Times

MEMPHIS, March 7—If James Earl Ray pleads guilty on Monday to the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he still will have to face a trial by a jury. However, the trial would be a very short one, lasting no more than two or three days, and would follow almost a script.

The jury would have to accept any conditions that the state and defense lawyers had agreed on and that had been approved by the trial judge. If a 99-year sentence were agreed upon, it would mean Ray might have to remain in prison at least 50 years.

A Tennessee court official explained how a guilty plea for murder is handled routinely:

The plea of guilty is entered. A 12-member jury is chosen, usually the first 12 to qualify.

Evidence of Prosecution

The prosecution would present evidence that the murder had been committed and that the defendant was responsible.

If no punishment had been agreed on by the state and the defense lawyers, the jury then would retire and reach a verdict and fix the punishment, which could include a death sentence.

If a punishment has been agreed to, such as the 99-year figure, it is reported to the jury by the judge and under normal circumstances, the jury accepts the recommendation.

All of this procedure must be approved by the trial judge, much as if it were a play and the judge were the director.

Judge W. Preston Battle, who will preside at Ray's trial, has not indicated his position publicly, but he was reported today to have some reservations about accepting a guilty plea if Ray planned to ask to testify and admit being involved in a plot to kill Dr. King but to deny having fired the fatal shot.

For several months last year, Ray appeared to be trying to establish such a defense. William Bradford Huie, the Alabama author who bought publication rights to Ray's life story, wrote in Look magazine that Ray contended he had been hired to perform some criminal act but that he did not know until a few days before Dr. King was shot on April 4, 1968, that he was to murder anyone.

There was a report today that Ray had reluctantly accepted an agreement for a 99-year sentence to avoid the possibility of being convicted and sentenced to death.

Tennessee executes condemned men in an electric chair, but no death penalty has been carried out in the state in more than seven years.

Despite the lack of official confirmation that Ray would plead guilty, there was much activity today at the Memphis courthouse where Ray is confined in a jail cell.

The telephone company put dozens of telephones into service. And security at the jail was increased. All doors leading into the courthouse were locked, armed guards were stationed inside it, and the streets in front and back of the courthouse were blocked to traffic.

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20.

NY Times 14 MAR 69

BROTHER SAYS RAY WAS PART OF PLOT

Quoted by St. Louis Paper as Certain of Conspiracy

By The Associated Press

James Earl Ray's brother said yesterday he was convinced that there was a conspiracy in the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to which Ray pleaded guilty in Memphis Monday.

The brother, John Larry Ray, was interviewed by The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, which quoted him as having said he was sure that Ray first was approached by conspirators in Canada.

That would have been after Ray's escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary on April 23, 1967.

"I am not the only one in on this," Ray was quoted as having told my brother. "My brother said there was someone else in on this 'deal,' but it had been hushed up by the Federal Bureau of Investigation," the newspaper quoted the brother as having said. "I didn't press him on what he meant."

Reason for Guilty Plea

James Earl Ray was sentenced to 99 years in the Tennessee State Penitentiary.

The guilty plea has been represented as the only way Ray's lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston, felt Ray could escape the electric chair. But Ray was quoted by The Nashville Tennessean, second-hand, as having said he now has second thoughts, and wishes he had taken his chances on a trial and a life term.

Under the 99-year term, he will be eligible to seek parole in 1999. Had he been sentenced to life, he could have sought parole in 1982—earlier if he were given maximum good behavior time.

Marches in Memphis

Meanwhile, two groups announced plans to hold memorial marches in Memphis on April 4, the first anniversary of Dr. King's death. The Rev. Ral David Abernathy, who succeeded Dr. King as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said a new Poor People's March will begin in Memphis on that date. He gave no details.

And Jesse Epps, head of the union that represents some 7,0 Memphis workers, said these workers would take the day off for an anniversary demonstration. Dr. King had gone to Memphis in behalf of about 1,300 striking garbage workers when he was killed. The Post-Dispatch quoted John Larry Ray as having said:

Several members of the Ray family met with Foreman in a St. Louis suburb two weeks ago.

"Foreman told us there was just too much evidence in the hands of the prosecution. Foreman said he couldn't agree to pursue any conspiracy angle, b cause it would make Jimmy sound like a hired killer rather than someone who may have killed King because he thought he was a Communist or differed with his beliefs.

"Foreman warned us that if the trial were to take place, Jimmy would possibly go to the electric chair to be made an example of, even though Tennessee hadn't electrocuted anyone in 10 years."

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21.

NY Times- 16 APR 69

Judge Sets May 26 To Hear Ray Plea For Murder Retrial

MEMPHIS, April 16 (AP)—Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr. today set May 26 to hear a motion by James Earl Ray for a new trial in the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Robert K. Dwyer, executive assistant district attorney, said there was a strong possibility that Ray himself would appear at the hearing.

The question of Ray's eligibility for a new trial is unclear under Tennessee law. He entered a guilty plea on March 10 to Dr. King's murder and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

Normally, anyone who enters such a plea forfeits rights to appeals or new hearings, and Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle pointed that out to Ray when the plea was made.

However, Tennessee law also provides that any new trial motions that are pending before a judge who dies must automatically be granted. Judge Battle died of a heart attack on March 31.

Almost immediately after he pleaded guilty Ray said he was pressured into doing so and wanted a new trial. He wrote two letters to that effect to Judge Battle and Ray's attorneys contend that a letter sent five days before the judge's death constitutes a motion for a new trial.

Judge Faquin, who was named back-up judge in the early stages of the case last summer, assumed full responsibility upon Judge Battle's death.

In a development yesterday, a civil suit filed in United States District Court in Nashville by Ray's present attorneys was amended to charge that Ray's former counsel, Arthur Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., had been in "collusion" with William Bradford Huie, the author, in a plan to "exploit" Ray for monetary reasons.

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22.

N.Y. Times 23 MAY 69

7 Freed of Contempt in Trial of Ray

By MARTIN WALDRON

Special to The New York Times

MEMPHIS, May 23 — A test of the extent of a judge's right to prohibit pretrial publicity was avoided today when Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr. of the Criminal Court dismissed eight contempt citations arising from the murder trial of James Earl Ray.

The late Judge W. Preston Battle, who accepted Ray's plea of guilty to the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., had held seven persons in contempt, one of them twice, for discussing or for publicizing details of the state's case against Ray. Judge Battle died in March shortly after sentencing Ray to 99 years in prison for slaying the civil rights leader.

"The clear and present danger to a fair trial, which made necessary the promulgation of orders regarding pretrial publicity, now no longer exists," said Judge Faquin, who took over Judge Battle's docket. "It would be unfair and unwise to test the validity of an order of such import or to try the violators with a record created after the necessity for such orders has been eliminated."

Two of those cited by Judge Battle were Memphis newspaper reporters who had written articles about interviews with Ray's former attorney, Arthur J. Hanes, and a private detective.

Scripps-Howard Newspapers, Inc., which owns both Memphis daily newspapers, had said it would appeal the contempt citations to the Supreme Court if possible to try to determine the extent of a judge's power to regulate what newspapers may print.

In citing the seven for contempt, Judge Battle had said that he was following a mandate from the Supreme Court in the 1966 case of Dr. Samuel Sheppard of Cleveland, who was granted a new trial because of publicity surrounding his first trial.

The Court said in that case that judges "must take such steps by rule and regulation that will protect their processes from prejudicial outside interference."

Judge Faquim wiped the record clean today. He granted, on his own initiative, motions for new trials for the seven men and then dismissed the entire proceedings.

This left no record that could be appealed.

Those who had been found in contempt by Judge Battle were Mr. Hanes; Renfro T. Hays, a private detective; the two reporters, Charles Edmundson of The Memphis Commercial Appeal and Roy Hamilton of The Memphis Press-Scimitar; William Bradford Huie, the author, who was cited twice for articles he wrote for Look magazine; the Rev. James T. Bevel, a civil rights leader and George Bonebreak, an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Ray was in the Shelby County Jail in Memphis today awaiting a hearing Monday on his request for a new trial. He has contended that he was coerced into pleading guilty at the March hearing. Judge Faquin will hear Ray's motion for a new trial.

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23.

Ray's Contention of Being Dupe Is Likely to Be Aired Tomorrow

By MARTIN WALDRON

Special to The New York Times

MEMPHIS, May 24—James Earl Ray's contention that he was a dupe in the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is likely to be thoroughly aired for the first time in a public hearing Monday in Memphis.

Ray is seeking a new trial on the ground that he was coerced into pleading guilty to the slaying of the civil rights leader.

The State of Tennessee, which is opposing a new trial, expects to call as witnesses Percy Foreman, the Houston lawyer who Ray says browbeat him into pleading guilty, and William Bradford Huie, the Alabama author to whom Ray sold a version of Dr. King's murder.

Two-Day Hearing

Prosecutors expect the hearing before Criminal Court Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr. to last two days.

Meanwhile, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are continuing an inquiry into the slaying of Dr. King, who was shot to death April 4, 1968, at a Memphis motel. The F.B.I. is trying to construct a day-by-day account of Ray's activities from the day he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary, April 23, 1967, until he was arrested in London June 8, 1968.

Last month, F.B.I. agents finally located the motel in Birmingham, Ala., where Ray had stayed for two days while he was buying the rifle that Memphis police found at the murder scene. He had registered as Eric Starvo Galt, one of several aliases he was using.

Ray's brother, Gerald Ray of Chicago, said an F.B.I. agent tried to interview him in Memphis this week about statements he had made about a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. King. Gerald Ray said the agent, Joe C. Hester, told him that he might be called before a Federal grand jury for questioning.

Warrant Still Outstanding

The F.B.I. declined to comment. But officials of the agency said after James Earl Ray pleaded guilty in March that the investigation would remain open. A Federal warrant charging Ray with conspiring with a man "alleged to be his brother" to deprive Dr. King of his civil right is still outstanding.

When he pleaded guilty March 10, Ray said he was guilty of murdering Dr. King, but he refused to stipulate that there was no conspiracy.

Ray fired Mr. Foreman as his lawyer a few days after the guilty plea and asked for a new trial. He said that the Texas attorney had told him that he was sure to be sentenced to death unless he pleaded guilty.

Ray had told his first lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes, a former mayor of Birmingham, that he did not shoot Dr. King. Ray said he went to Memphis April 3, 1968, with a "contact" who had said that a group of Cuban refugees wanted to buy black market rifles, presumably to use in an invasion of Cuba. Ray said that the rifle he had bought in Birmingham was to have been a model to show the Cubans.

Ray's request for a new trial was complicated by the death of Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle. He died March 31.

Two Major Points

Ray had written the judge a letter in which he said he planned to file a motion for a new trial even though he had waived the right March 10 when he pleaded guilty.

Tennessee law provides that proper motions pending before a judge at the time of his death must be granted.

Thus, Judge Faquin will have two major points to decide at the hearing:

¶Was the letter in itself a motion for a new trial?

¶Was Ray actually coerced into pleading guilty?

Ray's newest attorneys, who are handling the hearing, include J. B. Stoner of Savannah, Ga. He has been an attorney for various KuKlux Klansmen and for the National States' Rights party, a racist political group.

New York Times
24 May 69

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~~19 AUG 1976~~

UPI-165

(RAY)

LONDON (UPI)--A FATHER-AND-SON TEAM OF ALABAMA LAWYERS RETAINED TO DEFEND JAMES EARL RAY, THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, ARRIVED TODAY TO CONFER WITH RAY'S BRITISH LAWYERS WHO ARE TRYING TO BLOCK HIS EXTRADITION.

BUT ARTHUR J. HANES TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE HE WAS "NOT EVEN SURE I'LL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THIS MAN." HANES ARRIVED WITH HIS SON ARTHUR JR., AND CONFERRED IMMEDIATELY WITH RAY'S BRITISH LAWYERS.

HANES SAID HE HAD BEEN RETAINED TO DEFEND RAY IN EVENT THE U.S. SUCCEEDS IN EXTRADITING HIM FROM BRITAIN. HE DODGED QUESTIONS AS TO WHO WAS PAYING HIS FEES.

HANES DECLINED EVEN TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE MAN ARRESTED IN BRITAIN TWO WEEKS AGO AS R[illegible] SNEYD IS ACTUALLY JAMES EARL RAY.

6/20--GE[illegible]

UPI 20 June 68

File Ray

PO

UPI-2

(RAY)

LONDON--AN AMERICAN LAWYER WHO HAS VOWED TO DEFEND THE ACCUSED KILLER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING "WITH MY LAST OUNCE OF BREATH" STUDIED THE CASE TODAY.

ARTHUR J. HANES, A FORMER FBI AGENT AND EX-MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM, ALA., ARRIVED YESTERDAY WITH HIS SON ARTHUR JR. TO CONFER WITH BRITISH AUTHORITIES ON THE FATE OF THE ACCUSED, JAMES EARL RAY.

"YOU MAY SAY WE ARE MERELY INVESTIGATING THE CASE IN ORDER TO PREPARE THE WAY IN THE EVENT MR. SNEYD IS EXTRADITED TO THE UNITED STATES," HANES TOLD NEWSMEN YESTERDAY.

6/21--GE530A

UPI 21 June 68

25 ~~24~~ UPI items
(our copy
Docs 234-258

UPI-7
(RAY)

LONDON--A MAGISTRATE TODAY ORDERED A SCOWLING JAMES EARL RAY HELD WITHOUT BAIL ON GUN AND PASSPORT VIOLATIONS IN BRITAIN. U.S. ATTORNEYS SOUGHT HIS EXTRADITION TO STAND TRIAL IN AMERICA FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

IN AN 82-SECOND HEARING IN BOW STREET COURT IN LONDON'S WHOLESALE FRUIT DISTRICT, THE 40-YEAR-OLD ESCAPED CONVICT -- HALF DRAGGED TO THE DOCK BY 12 POLICE GUARDS -- SPOKE TWICE.

RAY SAID "NO" BOTH TIMES. ONCE HE WAS ASKED BY MAGISTRATE FRANK MILTON IF HE OBJECTED TO LIMITING PRESS COVERAGE OF HIS HEARING. THE SECOND TIME HE HAD BEEN ASKED IF HE HAD A LAWYER.

MILTON GRANTED HIM LEGAL AID, A FREE ATTORNEY, AND ORDERED HIM HELD IN JAIL UNTIL AT LEAST JUNE 18. IT GAVE PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE MORE TIME TO PREPARE TO ARGUE RAY'S CASE AGAINST CHARGES HE HELD FRADULENT PASSPORTS AND A GUN AND FIVE BULLETS ILLEGALLY WHEN ARRESTED SATURDAY AT LONDON AIRPORT AT THE END OF A WORLDWIDE HUNT THAT BEGAN APRIL 4 WHEN KING WAS SLAIN IN MEMPHIS, TENN.

U.S. LEGAL OFFICIALS HAD HOPED FOR A QUICK EXTRADITION. BUT RAY WAS GIVEN BENEFIT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS KING CHAMPIONED IN THE U.S.

BUNDLED INTO A PADDY WAGON, ESCORTED BY POLICE CRUISERS, RAY WAS TAKEN FROM THE COURT TO BRIXTON PRISON, A GRIMY, BRICK COMPOUND IN A WORKING CLASS AREA OF LONDON.

RAY SPENT HIS MOMENT IN COURT INSIDE AN EIGHT BY THREE FOOT WROUGHT IRON DOCK, SIX UNIFORMED AND SIX PLAINCLOTHES POLICE AROUND HIM. ONE WAS THOMAS BUTLER, THE SCOTLAND YARD "FLYING SQUAD" CHIEF WHO ARRESTED HIM.

THE DEFENDANT WORE THE CHECKED, GRAY GREEN SPORTS JACKET, THE BLUE COTTON SPORTS SHIRT AND DARK SLACKS HE WORE INTO CAPTIVITY WHEN CAUGHT IN THE AIRPORT EN ROUTE FROM LISBON TO BRUSSELS.

TO RAY'S RIGHT, ON A HARD WOODEN BENCH IN THE COURT WHERE CHARLES DICKENS ONCE TOOK NOTES FOR HIS NOVELS, SAT U.S. ASST. ATTY. GEN. FRED M. VINSON. HE FLEW INSUNDAY TO HELP SPEED UP EXTRADITION. BEHIND RAY -- KEPT EIGHT FEET DISTANT -- WERE NEWSMEN AND SPECTATORS, ALL SEARCHED FOR WEAPONS BY POLICE.

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MEMPHIS--SECRETIVE SWIFTNESS APPARENTLY WILL BE THE ORDER OF THE DAY WHEN, AAND IF, JAMES EARL RAY, THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., IS RETURNED TO MEMPHIS TO STAND TRIAL FOR MURDER.

DISTRICT ATTY. GEN. PHIL CANALE, WHO FOR YEARS HAS LEFT ACTIVE PROSECUTION OF CRIMINAL CASES TO OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS 19-MAN STAFF, INDICATED HE WOULD PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN RAY'S TRIAL. HE SAID A REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION WOULD BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

CANALE, SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF WILLIAM MORRIS AND CITY POLICE DIRECTOR FRANK HOLLOMAN SAID RAY MOST LIKELY WOULD BE SAFELY BEHIND BARS HEE BEFORE THE WORLD LEARNED OF HIS RETURN.

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JEFFERSON, CITY, MO.--THE STATE OF MISSOURI SUNDAY REQUESTED THE RETURN OF JAMES EARL RAY.

RAY ESCAPED FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY APRIL 23, 1967, WHERE HE WAS SERVING A 20-YEAR SENTENCE FOR ARMED ROBBERY.

GOV. WARREN E. HEARNES, IN A LETTER TO SECRETARY RUSK, SAID HE HOPED THE MISSOURI REQUEST WOULD SPEED RAY'S EXTRADITION TO THIS COUNTRY.

THE GOVERNOR WOULD NOT SAY WHETHER MISSOURI WOULD ASK THAT ITS EXTRADITION REQUEST BE GIVEN PRECEDENT OVER THAT OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE. KING WAS SHOT IN MEMPHIS, APRIL 4.

HEARNES SAID THAT FOR LEGAL REASONS HE COULD MAKE NO FURTHER COMMENT IN THE MATTER.

6/10--GE905A

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

UPI 10 June 68

UPI-33

(RAY)

LONDON--TWO AMERICAN LAWYERS FOR JAMES EARL RAY ARRIVED TODAY AND CONFERRED IMMEDIATELY WITH HIS BRITISH LAWYER ON WAYS TO BLOCK HIS EXTRADITION AND TRIAL FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

ARTHUR HANES, FORMER FBI AGENT AND EX-MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM, ALA., AND HIS SON, ARTHUR, JR., WERE MET AT THE SIDE OF THE JETLINER AT THE LONDON AIRPORT BY A MEMBER OF THE LONDON LAW FIRM OF DRESDEN AND CO.

HANES, JR., SAID HIS FATHER SPENT THE MORNING "GETTING AQUAINTED WITH THIS CASE," WHICH HANES AGREED TO HANDLE IF AND WHEN RAY IS RETURNED TO THE U.S.

RAY WILL APPEAR IN BOW STREET MAGISTRATES COURT IN LONDON JUNE 21 [illegible] HEARING.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Date [illegible]

UPI

UPI 11 June 68

UPI-49

(RAY)

LONDON--SCOTLAND YARD TODAY HUNTED LONDON CONTACTS OF THE MAN ACCUSED OF KILLING MARTIN LUTHER KING.

THE SEARCH CENTERED ON PERSONS WHO MAY HAVE KEPT THE 40-YEAR-OLD ESCAPED CONVICT SUPPLIED WITH MONEY BEFORE HIS ARREST AT LONDON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SATURDAY.

THE HUNT SPREAD TO BRUSSELS AND LISBON WHERE, ACCORDING TO UNOFFICIAL REPORTS, JAMES EARL RAY MAY HAVE BEEN PICKING UP FUNDS FUNNELED THROUGH A SWISS BANK ACCOUNT.

THE DETECTIVES HUNTED WHILE U.S. AND BRITISH GOVERNMENT LAWYERS COOPERATED IN AN EFFORT TO EXTRADITE RAY TO AMERICA.

U.S. ASSISTANT ATTY. GEN. FRED M. VINSON JR., LEADING THE EXTRADITION DRIVE, WAS AIMING FOR AS SPEEDY AN EXTRADITION AS POSSIBLE -- BY JUNE 28, LEGAL SOURCES SAID. BUT COURT OBSERVERS HERE SAID THE PROCESS COULD RUN INTO A LONG HOT SUMMER IF RAY EXERCISES HIS CIVIL RIGHTS TO THE EXTENT OF AN APPEAL TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS, BRITAIN'S SUPREME COURT.

WITH THE AID OF THE BRITISH FOREIGN AND HOME OFFICES, VINSON YESTERDAY SECURED FROM LONDON'S CHIEF MAGISTRATE A PROVISIONAL MURDER-EXTRADITION WARRANT.

THAT WARRANT MEANT RAY WOULD BE HELD HERE PENDING A FULL EXTRADITION HEARING IN COURT. LEGAL SOURCES SAID THE U.S. MURDER CASE AGAINST RAY WOULD BE HEARD IN MAGISTRATE'S COURT THURSDAY.

6/11--GE918A

(RAY)
WASHINGTON--THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY IT WILL SHORTLY TRANSMIT DOCUMENTS TO BRITAIN IN SUPPORT OF THE EXTRADITION REQUEST FOR THE SUSPECTED SLAYER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT J. MCCLOSKEY TOLD A NEWS BRIEFING THAT DOCUMENTS HAD ARRIVED AT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FROM BOTH TENNESSEE AND MISSOURI FOR THE PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING JAMES EARL RAY.

THESE UNSPECIFIED DOCUMENTS ARE PRESENTLY AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUT THE SPOKESMAN SAID THEY WOULD BE SENT TO BRITAIN "SHORTLY," POSSIBLY BY SPECIAL DIPLOMATIC POUCH.

[illegible]--GE123P

(RAY)
WASHINGTON--THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY IT WILL SEND DOCUMENTATION TO GREAT BRITAIN SHORTLY IN SUPPORT OF ITS REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION OF THE ACCUSED SLAYER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID DOCUMENTATION HAS ARRIVED AT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FROM BOTH TENNESSEE AND MISSOURI FOR THE PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING JAMES EARL RAY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DOCUMENTS WOULD BE SENT TO LONDON SHORTLY, POSSIBLY BY SPECIAL DIPLOMATIC POUCH.

6/11--EG315PED

UPI-54

(RAY)
NASHVILLE--GOV. BUFORD ELLINGTON TODAY SIGNED EXTRADITION PAPERS FOR JAMES EARL RAY, THE ACCUSED SLAYER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE SAID ELLINGTON FORWARDED THE PAPERS TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

6/11--[illegible]

UPI 11 Jun 68

UPI-38
(RAY)
LISBON--LISBON'S BARS AND NIGHT CLUBS ARE BOOMING BECAUSE OF THE
ARREST OF JAMES EARL RAY, THE MAN CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF DR.
MARTIN LUTHER KING.
AN ARMY OF REPORTERS, CAMERAMEN AND PHOTOGRAPHERS HAS ENTERED THE
CITY SINCE IT WAS DISCLOSED RAY SPENT NINE DAYS IN LISBON.
JOURNALISTIC EFFORTS ARE CENTERED ON DOWNTOWN BARS IN SEARCH OF GIRLS
WHO MIGHT HAVE SPENT A FEW HOURS WITH RAY.
6/12--GE1122A

UPI 12 June 68

UPI-39
(RAY)
LONDON--THE U.S. TODAY TOOK THE FIRST LEGAL STEPS TO SECURE THE
EXTRADITION OF JAMES EARL RAY, ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF MAR
KING.
THE SENIOR COUNSEL OF THE U.S. EMBASSY DELIVERED A FILE OF DOCUMENTS
TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE AT A BRIEF MEETING. SOURCES SAID THE FILE WOULD
SEEK TO SATISFY BRITISH LAW THAT THERE IS A PRIMA FACIE CASE
AGAINST RAY ON THE MURDER CHARGES.
THE FOREIGN OFFICE MUST FIRST BE SATISFIED THAT THE CASE COMPLIES
WITH THE TERMS OF THE EXTRADITION TREATY BETWEEN THE U.S. AND
BRITAIN. IT WILL THEN PASS THE DOCUMENTS ON TO THE HOME OFFICE
WHERE THEY WILL BE STUDIED TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS
WILL BE MET ACCORDING TO BRITISH LAW.
6/12--TD1035AED

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date

UPI 12 June 68

[illegible]

LONDON--THERE IS A CHANCE BRITAIN WILL SIMPLY ORDER THE DEPORTATION OF ACCUSED ASSASSIN JAMES EARL RAY AND AVOID A LONG EXTRADITION BATTLE IN THE COURTS. U.S. SOURCES SAID TODAY.

RAY, CHARGED WITH THE SNIPER KILLING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, WAS IN A BRITISH PRISON TODAY WHILE OFFICIALS OF BOTH COUNTRIES WORKED OUT THE LEGAL MECHANICS FOR GETTING HIM TO TENNESSEE.

6/12--GE955A

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date

UP P. 12 June 68

UPI-20

(RAY)

LONDON--BRITAIN TODAY FORMALLY AUTHORIZED COURT HEARINGS ON AMERICAN REQUESTS TO EXTRADITE JAMES EARLY RAY TO THE U.S. TO STAND TRIAL FOR THE KILLING OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

HOME SECRETARY JAMES CALLAGHAN SIGNED THE ORDER TELLING LONDON'S CHIEF MAGISTRATES TO HOLD HEARINGS ON THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT CASE FOR EXTRADITING THE 40-YEAR-OLD FUGITIVE CHARGED WITH THE ASSASSINATION.

THE HEARINGS AND APPEALS MIGHT LAST THROUGH THE SUMMER.

CALLAGHAN'S ORDER MADE RAY LIABLE FOR POSSIBLE EXTRADITION NOT ONLY FOR THE KILLING OF KING IN MEMPHIS, TENN., BUT FOR BREAKING OUT OF A MISSOURI PRISON IN 1957.

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LONDON--SCOTLAND YARD HUNTED TODAY A SHADOWY MAN AND A WOMAN WITH AN AMERICAN "TWANG" ACCENT TO LEARN WHAT THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF MARTIN LUTHER KING DID BEFORE HIS ARREST.

THE MAN STOOD NEAR JAMES EARL RAY WHEN THE 40-YEAR-OLD ACCUSED KILLER CHECKED INTO A LONDON HOTEL.

THE WOMAN WITH THE TWANG TELEPHONED THE HOTEL, ASKING FOR RAY.

U.S. AND BRITISH POLICE WANT TO KNOW WHO, IF ANYONE, HAD HELPED RAY FLEE.

3/13--GE64GA

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

UPI 13 June 68

UPI 14 June 68

UPI-30

(RAY)

LONDON--THE SCOTLAND YARD DETECTIVE WHO CAUGHT ACCUSED ASSASSIN JAMES EARL RAY WENT BACK INTO ACTION TODAY.

PHILLIP BIRCH TOOK UP HIS POST AT LONDON AIRPORT AS THE YARD PRESSED THE HUNT FOR ANY ACCOMPLICES OF THE MAN ACCUSED OF KILLING CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. APRIL 4.

BIRCH SPOTTED RAY, 40, IN AN AIRPORT CROWD SATURDAY, MAKING AN ARREST THAT ENDED A WORLDWIDE HUNT.

ALSO GETTING INTO ACTION NOW WERE THE COURT-APPOINTED DEFENSE LAWYERS FOR RAY. THEY WERE BEGINNING WORK TO THWART U.S. PLANS FOR EXTRADITING RAY TO STAND TRIAL IN MEMPHIS, TENN., FOR KING'S SLAYING.

THE DEFENSE LAWYERS WERE EXPECTED TO MEET SOON--POSSIBLY TODAY--WITH LONDON CHIEF MAGISTRATE FRANK MILTON AND U.S. ATTORNEYS TO SET A DATE FOR A HEARING ON THE AMERICAN CASE FOR EXTRADITION. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THURSDAY GAVE THE GO AHEAD TO THE COURTS TO HEAR THE AMERICAN CASE.

[illegible]--TD[illegible]AED

UPI 13 June 68

UPI-[illegible] (RAY)

WASHINGTON--THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE SAID TODAY THERE WAS NO RECORD TO INDICATE THAT JAMES EARL RAY HAD CONTACTED RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES ABOUT EMIGRATING TO RHODESIA.

JOHN ACORD, DIRECTOR OF THE PRO-RHODESIAN AMERICAN-SOUTHERN AFRICA COUNCIL, TOLD NEWSMEN THAT RAY WROTE THE COUNCIL LAST DECEMBER SAYING HE WAS CONSIDERING EMIGRATING TO RHODESIA. HE USED THE NAME ERIC S. GALT, ONE OF THE ALIASES RAY IS SAID TO HAVE USED.

ACORD SAID HE TURNED THE LETTER OVER TO THE FBI. BUT AN FBI SPOKESMAN SAID THE FBI WOULD HAVE NO COMMENT ON THE MATTER.

ACORD SAID THE COUNCIL SENT RAY A FORM LETTER REPLY GIVING DETAILS OF RHODESIA'S IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP LAW AND SAYING HE SHOULD WRITE FOR MORE INFORMATION TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT IN SALISBURY.

BUT RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICER JOHN HOOPER SAID A CHECK OF RECORDS IN BOTH WASHINGTON AND SALISBURY INDICATED THAT RAY DID NOT PURSUE THE MATTER.

[illegible]-TD[illegible]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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UPI-26

(RAY)

LONDON--A BRITISH LAW FIRM TODAY STARTED PREPARING A REBUTTAL TO AN AMERICAN DEMAND FOR EXTRADITION OF JAMES EARL RAY, ACCUSED OF KILLING MARTIN LUTHER KING.

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID THE LONDON LAW FIRM OF DRESDEN AND CO. HAD BEEN GIVEN AMERICAN DOCUMENTS SUPPORTING THE REQUEST THAT RAY BE TURNED OVER TO U.S. AUTHORITIES FOR EXTRADITION.

THE AMERICAN EXTRADITION DEMAND IS EXPECTED TO BE PRESENTED IN COURT FOR THE FIRST TIME AT A HEARING TOMORROW AT THE BOW STREET MAGISTRATE'S COURT. A FORMAL EXTRADITION HEARING PROBABLY WILL BE HELD A WEEK TO 10 DAYS AFTER TOMORROW'S HEARING.

6/17-AGE939A

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Date [illegible] 1976

UPI 17 Jun 68

UPI-13

(RAY)

LONDON--THE U.S. TODAY FORMALLY DEMANDED THE EXTRADITION OF JAMES EARL RAY, ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. A BRITISH COURT SCHEDULED A HEARING ON THE REQUEST JUNE 27.

THE AMERICAN DEMAND FOR THE 40-YEAR-OLD RAY'S EXTRADITION WAS PRESENTED IN LONDON'S BOW STREET MAGISTRATE'S COURT UNDER HEAVY SCOTLAND YARD GUARD. MAGISTRATE FRANK MILTON SET THE HEARING DATE.

"THANK YOU," RAY RESPONDED. THEY WERE THE ONLY WORDS SPOKEN BY THE EX-MISSOURI CONVICT.

RAY MADE HIS SECOND APPEARANCE IN THE BRITISH COURT UNDER HEAVY SECURITY GUARD. A SOLID WALL OF POLICE SURROUNDED HIM.

THE COURT FIRST CONSIDERED TECHNICAL CHARGES AGAINST RAY THAT AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST HE HAD IN HIS POSSESSION FORGED PASSPORTS AND A LOADED GUN.

THEN COUNSEL FOR THE U.S. ARGUED THE MAN IN THE DOCK WAS IN FACT RAY. RAY'S FORGED CANADIAN PASSPORTS BORE THE NAME RAMON GEORGE SNEYD.

THE ATTORNEY FOR THE U.S., NIGEL NAW, SAID THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WISHED TO BRING A FINGERPRINT EXPERT FROM THE U.S. AND WANTED A ADJOURNMENT UNTIL HE COULD ARRIVE. THE MAGISTRATE THEN SET THE HEARING DATE.

RAY'S COUNSEL, ROGER FRISBEE, READ A STATEMENT FROM RAY PROTESTING PRESS REPORTS HE HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED BY ASSISTANT U.S. ATTY. GEN. FRED VINSON. RAY SAID HE TOOK PARTICULAR EXCEPTION TO A DISPATCH IN THE LONDON TIMES JUNE 10 UNDER THE HEADLINE "U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF INTERVIEWS KING CASE MAN."

FRISBEE SAID RAY WANTED TO MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THE DISPATCH WAS UNTRUE. THE COUNSEL FOR THE U.S. AGREED RAY HAD NOT BEEN QUESTIONED BY ANY AMERICAN.

EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS.

6/18--GE531A

WPE

18 June 68

Date

APPROVED

UPI - 6-27-68

70

UPI-15
(RAY)

LONDON--THE U.S. SAID TODAY JAMES EARL RAY WAS THE "SINGLE HAND" KILLER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. IT SAID IT HAD A WITNESS TO PROVE IT.

A BRITISH LAWYER FOR THE U.S. CALLED IN A FORMAL EXTRADITION HEARING FOR RAY'S RETURN TO MEMPHIS TO FACE CHARGES OF THE "CALCULATED, BRUTAL AND SENSELESS MURDER" OF KING APRIL 4.

BRITISH BARRISTER DAVID CALCUTT SAID IN BOW STREET MAGISTRATE'S COURT THAT FINGERPRINTS CONNECTED RAY TO THE RIFLE USED TO ASSASSINATE KING.

THE ATTORNEY SAID U.S. AUTHORITIES HAD A WITNESS WHO SAW RAY ENTER A ROOMING HOUSE BATHROOM OVERLOOKING THE MOTEL WHERE KING DIED, HEARD A SHOT FIRED FROM THE BATHROOM AND WATCHED RAY COME OUT OF THE ROOM A MINUTE LATER.

CALCUTT IDENTIFIED THE WITNESS AS A "MR. STEVENS" BUT DID NOT GIVE HIS FIRST NAME.

KING WAS HIT AS HE STOOD ON A MOTEL BALCONY. INVESTIGATORS SAID THE SHOT WAS FIRED FROM THE BATHROOM WINDOW IN THE ROOMING HOUSE ACROSS THE STREET.

AS RAY STOOD -- SHOWING NO APPARENT EMOTION -- IN THE PRISONER'S DOCK, CALCUTT LOOKED AT HIM AND SAID: "THIS TRAGIC DEATH WAS THE WORK OF THIS CRIMINAL."

CALCUTT DESCRIBED THE CRIME AS "THE WORKING OF A SINGLE HAND."

ONE HUNDRED POLICEMEN GUARDED RAY AT THE HEARING. HE RODE TO THE COURT IN A BLACK POLICE PADD WAGON.

A SCOTLAND YARD DETECTIVE TESTIFIED THAT RAY ADMITTED HE WAS AN AMERICAN ALTHOUGH HE CARRIED TWO CANADIAN PASSPORTS WHEN HE WAS PICKED UP.

ROGER FRISBY, THE BRITISH ATTORNEY REPRESENTING RAY, INDICATED BY HIS CROSS QUESTIONING THAT HE WOULD TRY TO ESTABLISH THE KING ASSASSINATION WAS A POLITICAL CRIME.

POLITICAL CRIMES ARE NOT COVERED BY THE EXTRADITION TREATY BEWEEN BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE TESTIMONY TODAY WAS SO LENGTHY THE BRITISH MAGISTRATE SAID THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE ANOTHER HEARING NEXT WEEK, PROBABLY AT THE END OF THE WEEK.

6/27--GE843A

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UPI-8

(RAY)

LONDON--JAMES EARL RAY CHARGED TODAY HE HAD BEEN DENIED THE RIGHT TO SEE AN AMERICAN LAWYER WHO AGREED TO REPRESENT HIM IN ANY TRIAL FOR THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

THE MISSOURI-BORN RAY INTERRUPTED COURT PROCEEDINGS TO TELL THE MAGISTRATE HE WANTED TO MAKE A PERSONAL STATEMENT AT THIS SECOND HEARING TO DETERMINE WHETHER HE CAN BE EXTRADITED TO THE U.S.

HIS BRITISH DEFENSE ATTORNEY, ROGER FRISBY, CHARGED THAT THE SLAYING OF KING WAS A POLITICAL CRIME FOR WHICH THE U.S.-BRITISH EXTRADITION AGREEMENT DOES NOT APPLY.

RAY, ALSO ACCUSED OF ESCAPING FROM A MISSOURI PRISON WHILE SERVING A SENTENCE FOR ARMED ROBBERY, WAS REFERRING TO THE RECENT LONDON VISIT OF BIRMINGHAM, ALA., LAWYER ARTHUR J. HANES.

HANES FLEW TO LONDON WITH HIS SON ARTHUR JR., ALSO A LAWYER, AND THEN RETURNED HOME AFTER COMPLAINING HE HAD BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION TO SEE RAY.

IN HIS UNEXPECTED PERSONAL APPEARANCE BEFORE THE BOW STREET MAGISTRATE COURT RAY SAID THE AMERICAN PROSECUTION CASE "IS NOT TOO FAVORABLE TO ME."

RAY BOUNCING UP AND DOWN ON HIS HEELS AND TOES SPOKE IN A STACCATO VOICE. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND HIM.

RAY MADE REQUEST TO MAKE A STATEMENT TO THE COURT ONLY MINUTES AFTER THE HEARING WAS RECESSED UNTIL 2 P.M. (9 A.M. EDT).

AFTER MAKING THE STATEMENT THE COURT ASKED IF HE WANTED IT READ BEFORE THE FULL COURT WHEN THE AFTERNOON SESSION CONVENED.

"YES, SIR, BEING AS HOW THE OTHER PART (OF THE TESTIMONY) IS NOT TOO FAVORABLE TO ME," HE REPLIED.

RAY AGAIN OBJECTED TO THE TESTIMONY OF SCOTLAND YARD DETECTIVE SUPERINTENDENT THOMAS BUTLER CONCERNING HIS BEHAVIOR WHEN ARRESTED AT LONDON AIRPORT JUNE 8. HE SAID HE WAS "CONCERNED" THAT THIS PROBABLY WOULD BE GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY IN THE U.S., "ESPECIALLY IN THE SO-CALLED LIBERAL PRESS."

RAY URGED THE COURT TO CONSIDER THAT HE SIGNED NOTHING WHEN ARRESTED IN BRITAIN AND HAD NO CONTACT WITH ANYONE FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY, ESPECIALLY THE U.S. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, FRED VINSON WHO VISITED LONDON AFTER RAY'S ARREST.

HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT TESTIMONY CONNECTED WITH THE EXTRADITION HEARING WOULD BE USED IN "ANY" PROCEEDINGS IN THE U.S.

HE THEN COMPLAINED THAT HIS ALABAMA ATTORNEY WAS DENIED ACCESS TO HIM BY BRITISH HOME SECRETARY JAMES CALLAGAN.

7/2--GE904A

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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105

UPI-31A

(RAY)

LONDON--A COURT RULED TODAY THAT JAMES EARL RAY WILL BE EXTRADITED TO THE U.S. TO FACE CHARGES OF ASSASSINATING MARTIN LUTHER KING.

7/2--GE53AGA

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126

UPI30

(RAY)

LONDON— A COURT TODAY ORDERED JAMES EARL RAY EXTRADITED TO TH
U.S. TO STAND TRIAL FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.
RAY, WAS IDENTIFIED AS AN ESCAPED CONVICT FROM A MISSOURI JAIL,
WAS ACCUSED OF SHOOTING THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER IN MEMPHIS ON
APRIL 4. HE WAS ARRESTED AT LONDON AIRPORT JUNE 8.

RAY'S DEFENSE ATTORNEY, ROGER FRISBY, ARGUED IN BOW STREET
MAGISTRATE COURT THAT THE SLAYING WAS A POLITICAL CRIME. BUT
FRANK MILTON, CHIEF METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE FOR LONDON, AGREED
WITH THE U.S. POSITION IT WAS OUTRIGHT MURDER.

RAY, SO NERVOUS HE WAS ALMOST INCOHERENT, HAD SHOWN EARLIER
IN A SURPRISE STATEMENT TO THE COURT THAT HE FEARED—AND PERHAPS
EXPECTED—THE EXTRADITION TO BE GRANTED.

THERE WAS STILL MUCH LEGAL RED TAPE TO GO THROUGH BEFORE RAY
RETURNS TO THE U.S. HIS DEFENSE ATTORNEY INDICATED HE WOULD APPEAL INA
A MANEUVER THAT COULD TAKE WEEKS.

MILTON IN HIS RULING SAID NO EVIDENCE HAD BEEN PRESENTED AT THE
TWO-PART HEARING TO SUBSTANTIATE DEFENSE CLAIMS THE SLAYING WAS A
POLITICAL CRIME.

HE ALSO RULED THAT MISSOURI LAW COVERING ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE
WAS RELEVANT IN THE EXTRADITION CASE. MISSOURI WANTS RAY FOR TRIAL
ON CHARGES HE ESCAPED FROM PRISON WHILE SERVING A TERM FOR ARMED
ROBBERY.

MILTON RULED RAY EXTRADITABLE ON BOTH COUNTS. AT LAST WEEK'S
HEARING, RAY DENIED KILLING KING.

"ALL I KNOW IN THIS AFFAIR IS THAT THE MAN SAYS HE DID NOT DO IT,"
MILTON SAID TODAY.

"IF THE ONLY EVIDENCE IS THAT A PUBLIC FIGURE, A POLITICAL FIGURE,
A CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE HAS BEEN KILLED THEN THIS IS NOT ENOUGH.

"THEREFORE BOTH SUBMISSIONS FAILED TO BE ACCEPTED AND THE
DEFENDANT WILL BE COMMITTED TO A PRISON TO AWAIT EXTRADITION ON
BOTH SIDES."

"YOU WILL WILL NOT RELEASED FOR 15 DAYS," MILTON RAY. "YOU
MAY APPLY FOR HABEAS CORPUS."

THIS, UNDER BRITISH LAW, IS THE FORM THAT RAY'S APPEAL WILL TAKE
TO THE DIVISION COURT OF THE QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION OF THE HIGH
COURT OF JUSTICE.

THE DEFENSE CALLED IT A POLITICAL CRIME BUT THE MAGISTRATE IN
RULING AGAINST THIS SAID:

"THIS WAS THE ASSASSINATION OF MAN WHO WAS NOT IN CONTROL OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS COUNTRY. NOT AS FAR AS HAS BEEN SHOWN BY THE
EVIDENCE. IT WAS NOT PART OF A CAMPAIGN TO GET RID OF THE GOVERNMENT
BUT THE ACT OF A SOLITARY PERSON."

RAY SHOWED VIRTUALLY NO EMOTION WHE

BUT THE ACT OF A SOLITARY PERSON."

RAY SHOWED VIRTUALLY NO EMOTION WHEN MILTON ANNOUNCED HIS
DECISION.

HE WAS STARING DOWN AT THE TABLE AND LOOKED UP SLOWLY WITHOUT
BLINKING. THEN WITH A SLIGHT SHRUG OF HIS SHOULDER, HE ROSE TO RECEIVE
FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM MILTON. HE REMAINED EXPRESSIONALESS.

THIS WAS IN CONTRAST TO HIS NERVOUSNESS A FEW MINUTES EARLIER WHEN
HE HAD MADE HIS STATEMENT THAT HE HAD BEEN DENIED THE RIGHT TO SEE
HIS AMERICAN LAWYER.

FRISBY SAID LATER HE "PROBABLY" WOULD APPEAL TODAY'S RULING.

7/2—TD1018AED

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Date 19 AUG 1976

UPI-12

(RAY)

LONDON--ARTHUR J. HANES SAID TODAY HE HAD "OFFICIALLY" ACCEPTED THE JOB OF DEFENDING ACCUSED ASSASSIN JAMES EARL RAY. HE SAID HE MIGHT USE A PLEA OF INSANITY IF RAY IS BROUGHT TO TRIAL IN AMERICA FOR THE SNIPER SLAYING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

HANES, THE FORMER MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM, ALA., ARRIVED IN LONDON TODAY TO CONFER WITH RAY IN THE AMERICAN'S MAXIMUM SECURITY LONDON CELL. RAY IS FIGHTING EXTRADITION TO THE UNITED STATES.

"PERHAPS THERE WILL BE A PLEA OFNOT GUILTY AND THERE MAY BE OTHER PLEAS IN DEFENSE OF THAT PLEA," HANES TOLD NEWSMEN AT A LONDON AIRPORT.

HANES SAID AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED THE MAN THE BRITISH HOLD IN PRISON FOR THE MURDER OF KING IN MEMPHIS, TENN., APRIL 4 IS SNEYD.

"HE IS RAMON GEORGE SNEYD AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNEDA," HANES SAID.

"THIS MAN HAS IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS SUCH. I AM SAYING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE AUTHORITIES IN TENNESSEE HAVE THE BURDEN TO PROVE OTHERWISE. IT WILL HAVE NO BEARING IN TENNESSEE HOW THE BRITISH COURTS SAY HE IS JAMES EARL RAY."

7/5--TD907AED

UPI 5 JUL 68

UPI-1A
(RAY)
LONDON--ATTORNEYS FOR THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF MARTIN LUTHER KING
--LOSERS IN THE FIRST ROUND OF AN EXTRADITION FIGHT -- WENT TO WORK
TODAY ON AN APPEAL TO A BRITISH HIGHER COURT.
IF THE APPEAL FAILS, LEGAL SOURCES SAID, ESCAPED MISSOURI CONVICT
JAMES EARL RAY COULD BE ON HIS WAY TO MEMPHIS BY THE END OF THE
MONTH.
CHIEF JUSTICE FRANK MILTON OF BOW STREET MAGISTRATE'S COURT
YESTERDAY ORDERED RAY'S DEPORTATION TO THE U.S.
MILTON GAVE RAY 15 DAYS TO APPEAL HIS DECISION TO THE QUEEN'S BENCH
DIVISION OF THE BRITISH HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE. THE COURT IS COMPARABLE
TO THE U.S. -9745

TO THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS.
SHOULD THE HIGH COURT REJECT RAY'S APPEAL, A FURTHER APPEAL TO THE
HOUSE OF LORDS IS POSSIBLE. BUT LEGAL SOURCES SAID THAT IF THE BENCH
DIVISION UPHOLDS THE MAGISTRATE'S DECISION, IT PROBABLY ALSO WILL
REFUSE RECOURSE TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS. IF THIS HAPPENS, RAY COULD BE
SENT BACK TO THE U.S. BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH.
7/3--GE92AC

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date [illegible]

UPI 3 JULY 68

~~98.~~
99

UPI-58

(RAY)

MEMPHIS—SECURITY PLANS FOR THE EXPECTED TRIAL OF ACCUSED ASSASSIN JAMES EARL RAY CALL FOR THE VOICES AND FACES OF EVERY PERSON ATTENDING TRIAL TO BE RECORDED ON SOUND AND VIDEO TAPE.

CHARLES HOLMES, PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVISER TO SHERIFF WILLIAM MORRIS, SAID IT WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME SUCH A PRECAUTION HAS BEEN TAKEN.

RAY IS IN A LONDON JAIL FOLLOWING HIS ARREST THERE. HE IS APPEALING HIS EXTRADITION TO MEMPHIS TO FACE CHARGES OF MURDERING MARTIN LUTHER KING APRIL 4.

THE TRIAL WILL BE HELD IN ONE OF THE FIVE SHELBY COUNTY CRIMINAL COURTROOMS. THE LARGEST OF THESE COURTROOMS SEATS JUST OVER 100 PERSONS, INCLUDING THE TRIAL PRINCIPALS.

HOLMES SAID EACH PERSON WOULD BE FILMED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE COURTROOM, AND EACH WOULD BE ASKED TO SPEAK INTO A MICROPHONE. HE SAID THERE WAS NO PLAN TO MAKE A PANORAMIC FILM OF THE COURTROOM WHILE THE TRIAL WAS IN PROGRESS.

MOST OF THE PUBLIC SEATS ARE TO GO TO NEWSMEN BUT RESERVATIONS, OFFICIALS SAY, WILL BE ASSURED FOR RELATIVES OF THE DEFENDANT AND OF THE FAMILY OF KING. SHERIFF WILLIAM MORRIS SAID A SEGMENT OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC WILL ALSO BE SEATED, EVEN IF ALL OF THE NEWSMEN PRESENT AT ANY ONE TIME MAY NOT BE SEATED.

UPI-58

(RAY)

LONDON—JAMES EARL RAY COULD BE EXTRADITED TO THE U.S. AS EARLY AS THE FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST TO STAND TRIAL FOR THE SLAYING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, LEGAL SOURCES SAID TODAY.

A HEARING ON RAY'S APPEAL AGAINST THE EXTRADITION ORDER HAS BEEN SET FOR JULY 29.

THREE JUSTICES OF THE QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISIONAL COURT OF THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE WILL HEAR RAY'S LAWYERS FIGHT THE EXTRADITION ORDER.

LEGAL SOURCES SAID THAT SHOULD THE APPEALS COURT TURN DOWN RAY'S APPEAL OF THE EXTRADITION ORDER, HE COULD STILL APPEAL TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS. BUT PERMISSION TO GO TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS COULD BE REFUSED

IN THAT CASE, RAY WOULD BE RETURNING TO THE U.S. ABOUT THE FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST, THE SOURCES SAID.

7/10—ID1042AED

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

96.

[illegible] (RAY)

LONDON -- A BRITISH COURT SAID TODAY IT WILL HEAR ON JULY 29 JAMES EARL RAY'S APPEAL AGAINST EXTRADITION TO THE U.S. TO STAND TRIAL FOR THE SLAYING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

THE SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE WHEN RAY APPEARED AT BOW STREET MAGISTRATE'S COURT ON CHARGES OF VIOLATING BRITISH GUN AND IMMIGRATION LAWS.

HE WAS ORDERED TO APPEAR AGAIN JULY 6.

HE WAS ORDERED TO APPEAR AGAIN JULY 15 TO ANSWER TO THE CHARGES OF CARRYING A LOADED .38-CALIBER PISTOL AND TWO FORGED PASSPORTS, WHICH GOT HIM ARRESTED IN THE FIRST PLACE JUNE 8.

IT WAS EXPECTED BRITAIN MIGHT IGNORE THE CHARGES IF RAY IS EXTRADITED.

RAY, WHOSE EXTRADITION WAS ORDERED A WEEK AGO, APPEARED IN COURT TODAY TO MEET A BRITISH LEGAL REQUIREMENT THAT PRISONERS APPDAR BEFORE A MAGISTRATE EVERY EIGHT DAYS WHILE THEY ARE HELD.

7/9--HE916A

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

UPI-122 97

(RAY)

LONDON--A BRITISH COURT HAS SET JULY 29 AS THE DATE FOR A HEARING ON JAMES EARL RAY'S APPEAL FROM AN ORDER EXTRADITING HIM TO THE UNITED STATES TO STAND TRIAL FOR THE MURDER OF THE REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., COURT OFFICIALS SAID TODAY.

THE DATE WAS REVEALED UNEXPECTEDLY DURING RAY'S ROUTINE APPEARANCE AT BOW STREET MAGISTRATE'S COURT UNDER THE BRITISH LAW REQUIRING THAT A DETAINED PERSON BE BROUGHT BEFORE A JUDGE EVERY EIGHT DAYS.

CHIEF MAGISTRATE FRANK MILTON CASUALLY ASKED IF A HEARING DATE HAD BEEN SET FOR RAY'S APPEAL.

"YES, SIR, JULY 29," REPLIED A COURT CLERK, TO THE SURPRISE OF THE COURTROOM AUDIENCE.

7/9--ES356PED

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

106

[illegible]

(RAY)

LONDON -- THE HOME OFFICE DENIED TODAY IT PREVENTED ALABAMA LAWYER ARTHUR J. HANES FROM VISITING JAMES EARL RAY, THE ACCUSED ASSASIN OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

A HOME OFFICE [illegible] THE DENIAL IN RESPONSE TO RAY'S STATEMENT IN COURT THAT HOME SECRETARY JAMES CALLAGHAN DENIED HIM ACCESS TO HANES, FORMER MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

A HOME OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ON JUNE 22 RAY PETITIONED THE HOME SECRETARY TO BE ALLOWED A VISIT FROM HIS ATTORNEY, MR. HANES. THE NECESSARY ORDER WAS GRANTED BUT SNEYD (RAMON GEORGE SNEYD, THE NAME UNDER WHICH RAY WAS CHARGED) DID NOT MAKE USE OF IT AND MR. HANES MADE NO APPROACH TO THE HOME SECRETARY, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

[illegible]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date ~~19 AUG 1976~~

UPI-61

(RAY)

LONDON--JAMES EARL RAY'S ALABAMA LAWYER SAID TODAY RAY IS INNOCENT OF THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING AND WANTS TO RETURN TO THE U.S. TO CLEAR HIMSELF ON THE CHARGES.

ATTORNEY ARTHUR J. HANES SR. SAID RAY AGREED TO WAIVE AN EXTRADITION APPEAL WHEN THEY MET AT LONDON'S WADSWORTH PRISON THIS AFTERNOON.

HANES SAID RAY, WHOM HE REFERRED TO AS "R.G. SNEYD," HAD ASKED THE U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND BRITISH AUTHORITIES TO PERMIT HANES TO ACCOMPANY HIM WHEN HE IS HANDED OVER TO U.S. AUTHORITIES TO BE SENT TO MEMPHIS, TENN., FOR TRIAL.

HANES SAID THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS DENIED THIS REQUEST SO FAR.

HANES SAID SNEYD DID NOT HAVE TO SIGN ANY WAIVERS BUT SIMPLY ACTED THROUGH THE ALABAMA ATTORNEY, ADVISING HIM TO PROCEED WITH THE EXTRADITION PROCESS.

HANES SAID RAY WANTED TO RETURN TO THE U.S. IMMEDIATELY "SO MY CLIENT AND I CAN BEGIN WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY TO COMBAT AND COUNTERACT THE UNPRECEDENTED, VICIOUS AND LIBELLOUS PRESS AND TELEVISION CAMPAIGN TO PORTRAY HIM AS A CONVICTED MURDERER, A MONSTER, A DEGENERATE AND A DOPE ADDICT."

"THIS MAN WANTS TO GET BACK TO THE UNITED STATES AND CLEAR HIS NAME," HANES SAID. "IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT."

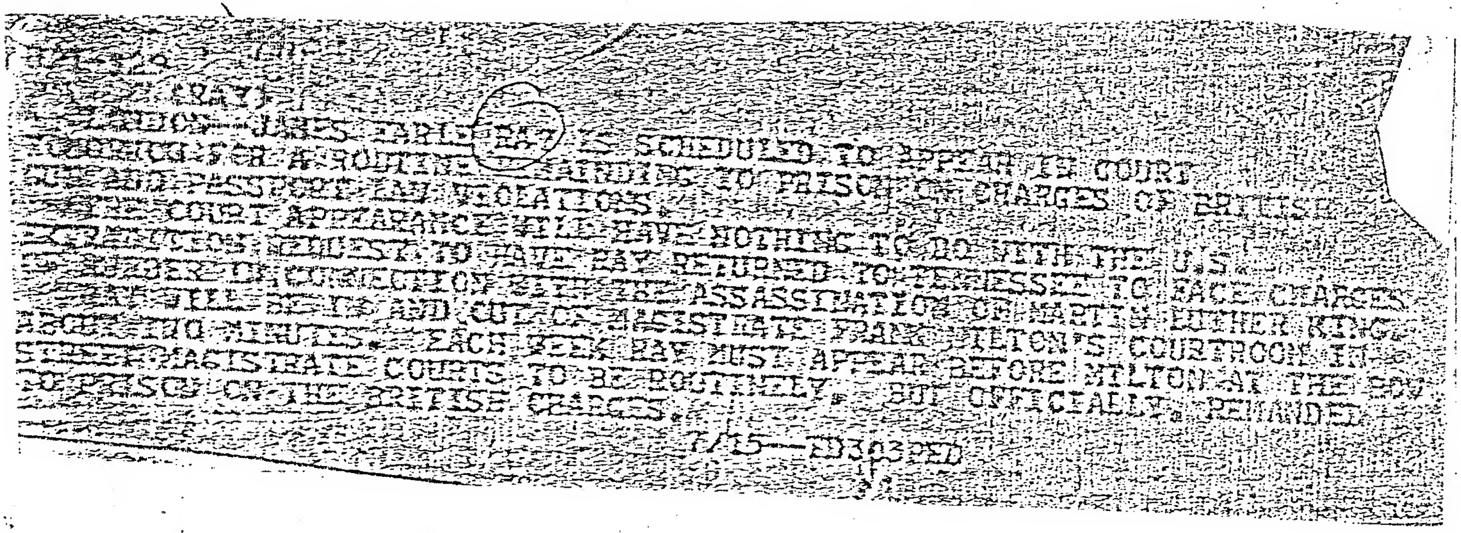
HANES SAID THE VISIT OF U.S. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FRED M. VINSON JR. TO LONDON, WHERE HE WAS ALLOWED TO SEE RAY BUT NOT TO TALK WITH HIM, "WAS HIGH-HANDED AND WRONG AND I THINK HIGHLY PREJUDICIAL."

IN A PREPARED STATEMENT, HANES CHARGED THAT VINSON'S ACTION IN SEEING RAY VIOLATED RAY'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISIONS.

7/17--TD1227PED

UPI 17 Jul 68

98



[illegible]-328 [illegible]
(RAY)
LONDON--JAMES EARL RAY IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR IN COURT
TOMORROW FOR A ROUTINE REMANDING TO PRISON ON CHARGES OF BRITISH
GUN AND PASSPORT LAW VIOLATIONS.
THE COURT APPEARANCE WILL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE U.S.
EXTRADITION REQUEST TO HAVE RAY RETURNED TO TENNESSEE TO FACE CHARGES
OF MURDER IN CONNECTION WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.
RAY WILL BE IN AND OUT OF MAGISTRATE FRANK MILTON'S COURTROOM IN
ABOUT TWO MINUTES. EACH WEEK RAY MUST APPEAR BEFORE MILTON AT THE BOW
STREET MAGISTRATE COURTS TO BE ROUTINELY, BUT OFFICIALLY, REMANDED
TO PRISON ON THE BRITISH CHARGES.
7/15--ED303PED

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Date 19 AUG 1976

JAMES EARL RAY
RELEASE
(our copies)

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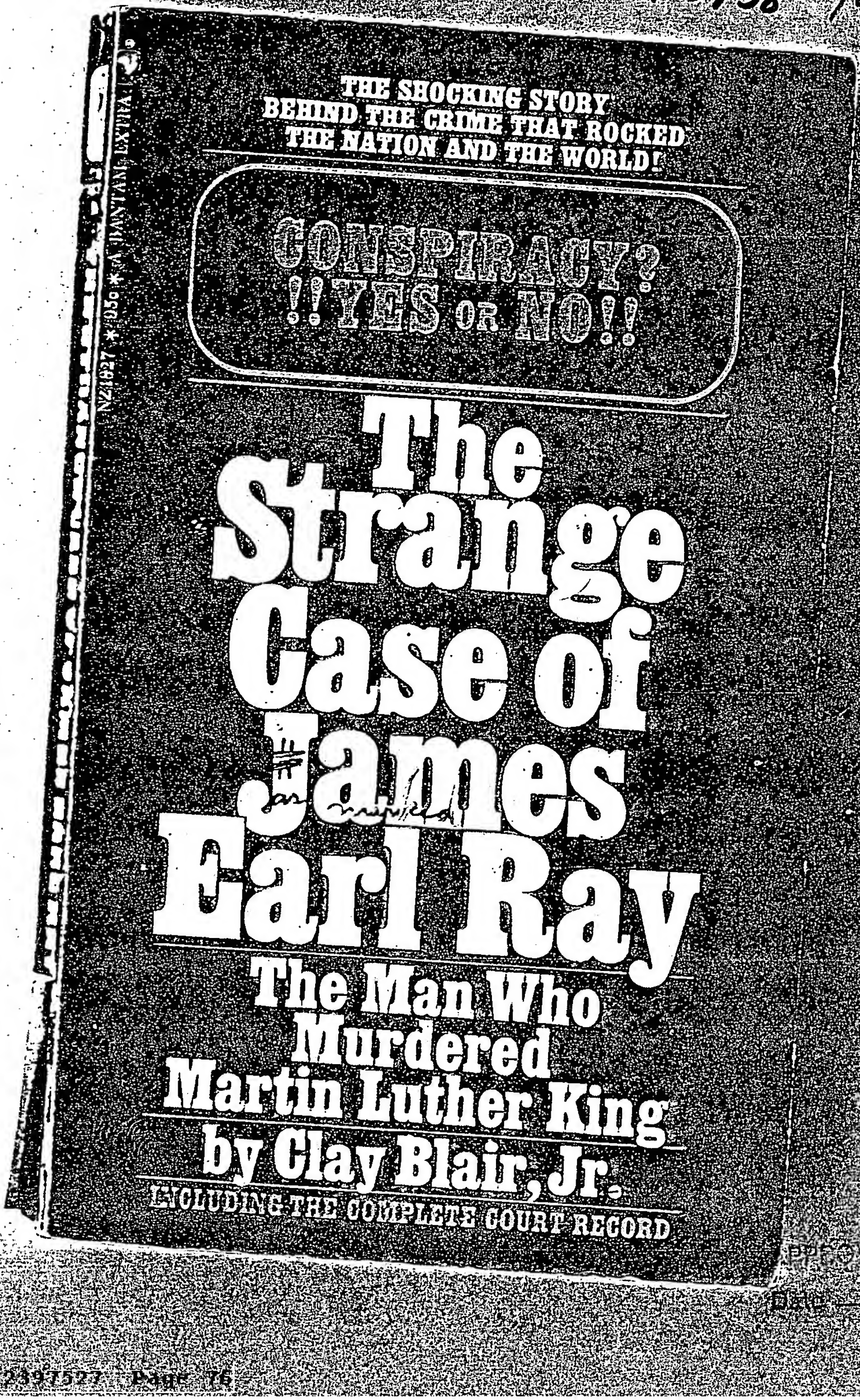

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THE SHOCKING STORY
BEHIND THE CRIME THAT ROCKED
THE NATION AND THE WORLD!

CONSPIRACY?
!! YES OR NO !!

The Strange Case of James Earl Ray

The Man Who Murdered Martin Luther King

by Clay Blair, Jr.

INCLUDING THE COMPLETE COURT RECORD

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE 19 AUG 1976

RAY AND KING—
HERE ARE THE FACTS!

The day James Earl Ray was arrested in London for the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., Bantam Books commissioned former SATURDAY EVENING POST editor-in-chief Clay Blair, Jr. to undertake his own inquiry into the history and psychology of the accused assassin.

Blair traveled over 15,000 miles—from Toronto to Birmingham to Los Angeles—interviewing hundreds of people and examining countless records. Blair's keen reporter's eye led him to many previously untapped sources of information vital to understanding Ray's character and possible motives —testimony from his sister, father, stepmother, acquaintances and jailmates establish a cunning, shrewd criminal.

Ray's quick and unexpected court appearance on Monday, March 10, only increased the nagging questions and doubts of a case plagued by controversy.

NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME,
HERE ARE THE FACTS!

Books by Clay Blair, Jr.

- THE HYDROGEN BOMB (with James Shepley)
- THE ATOMIC SUBMARINE AND ADMIRAL RICKOVER
- BEYOND COURAGE
- NAUTILUS 90 NORTH (with Commander William R. Anderson)
- DIVING FOR PLEASURE AND TREASURE
- ALWAYS ANOTHER DAWN (with A. Scott Crossfield)
- THE STRANGE CASE OF JAMES EARL RAY

Published by Bantam Books, Inc.

The Strange Case of James Earl Ray

The Man Who Murdered Martin Luther King

by Clay Blair, Jr.

BANTAM BOOKS
TORONTO NEW YORK LONDON

3

Too Many Strikes Against Him

In the fall of 1935, little Jimmy Ray made his formal debut in the outside world. He entered first grade at the Ewing Consolidated School. There was no school bus. Jimmy walked the mile and a quarter, cutting across dusty beanfields and cornfields, down through the shady back streets of Ewing, through the hillside cemetery, across the new highway and into the dirt schoolyard. He was small, blue-eyed, shy, the poorest of the poor, dressed in overalls and shabby tennis shoes with brown binder cord for strings. But always clean. Lucille registered Jimmy as "James Rayns." (Later, when John Larry entered the same school, he was registered as John Raynes.)

The Ewing Consolidated School was a wretched institution in a wretched time and place. There were 50 to 60 students crowded into three "basement" rooms (the upper portion of the school was yet to be built). The first and second grades shared a room. The third through fifth shared another. The sixth through eighth shared the last. There were half a dozen teachers. School hours were from 9:00 to 4:30 with a break for lunch at midday, always preceded by a prayer of thanksgiving offered by a "volunteer" student. For those students who could not afford a nickel, including Jimmy Ray, the lunches were free. There was no organized recreation. Absenteeism was high among the student body. Students were needed at home for chores. Their parents were not obsessed by the need to educate the children. It was often too cold to walk to school.

One can well imagine that Jimmy Ray was bewildered by his first contact with books and formal teaching. He was, in the current jargon, a truly deprived child. It is doubtful that a book of any kind had ever entered his home. Miss Ina Kitson, who still teaches at the school, remembers Jimmy Rayns quite well. "He was just precious," she recalls. "He always played up to me, always came in

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Although circumstances of his environment placed him in a deprived category, denied him recognition, Jimmy Ray did not give up easily. The denial, the twinges of adversity and stern compression of circumstances had, perhaps, imbued him with a mysterious "ruthless fixity of purpose and tenacious mother-wit," which, as Winston Churchill writes, drive men to unusual endeavor. On February 14, when he and his classmates exchanged Valentines, Jimmy appeared with a handmade card that surely took him many patient hours to create. When classmate Brown came down with polio, Jimmy carried his books for him. Jimmy was so anxious to star in the sandlot football games that he broke his leg carrying the football into a line of much larger and tougher boys. He worried to his teacher, Virgil Graves, that the other kids might make fun of his clothes.

At home there was little inspiration for Jimmy Ray. His mother, now burdened with two more infants, both girls, Melba, born in 1938, and Carol Jean, born in 1941, had succumbed to that fatal Irish weakness, drink. She also smoked—on the sly. She despaired of religion. "There was no Christianity in that house," Charlie Peacock recalls. "Nothing to help them over the rough spots." To get firewood, members of the family ripped up the floor and tore down the walls of the house. When the lilac-covered shack was dangerously undermined, he trucked in another shack; a one-room affair with a potbellied stove. Lucille hung a blanket from the ceiling to partition the space. The two adults and five children lived in untold tension, and without privacy.

Then came World War II. It dramatically changed almost all lives, including the Rays'. Now there was a labor shortage—big money for those willing to work. Relief programs were abolished. The depression was a thing of the past, a nightmarish memory. With his house now a shambles, no food for the five children, James Gerald Ray was evidently stirred to action. He found regular work—for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad in Galesburg, Illinois. In the summer of 1943 after Jimmy, then 15, graduated from the eighth grade, Gerry Raines abandoned the farm and moved to Galesburg.

And so Ewing's most obscure and deprived family melted away, almost without trace. Marjorie's grave was left unmarked. James Gerald Ray, or Gerry Raines, left behind not so much as a scrap of paper bearing his signature and only one unpaid bill: a $12 balance on Marjorie's funeral. John Loscher bought the farm in 1945 from Mary Maher for $1,250 and plowed under all that remained of the dwellings.

4

Drummed Out of the Elite Corps

The eldest son did not go with the family to Galesburg. Instead, Jimmy went to Alton, to live with his Grandmother Maher, and to take a job. He was, perhaps, ashamed of his mother and father, the numbing poverty, the lack of pride, ambition. The tenacious mother-wit had taken hold. Jimmy Ray would make something of himself, find that hard-sought recognition. That fall he went to work in the tanning factory of the International Shoe Company, earning 77¢ an hour. He was a young lad with the determination of Horatio Alger. Always neat in appearance, he arrived at the factory promptly for work. He literally slaved for his money—sweeping floors, shoving heavy stock in the shipping room, going about his work with quiet competence, eager to please, to get on, to climb the ladder of the free-enterprise system. He was clean, honest, frugal—more "Scotch than Irish," Aunt Mabel recalls, admiring her young nephew's frugality. He did not smoke or drink. The life of crime—Uncle Earl's way—held no appeal. He told his younger brother, John Larry: "Why should people go and steal when they can make this much working?" He was hell-bent to rise above his own environment and heritage. He banked most of his salary at the Alton Bank & Trust Company. He dreamed of starting his own business, of buying a gasoline station after the war.

The Mahers were agreeably surprised by the industry of young James Earl Ray. In a statement now in the files of the Edwardsville State's Attorney, in connection with less fortunate times, Grandmother Maher had this to say: "He worked with a man in the tannery from Germany and learned the trade of dyeing leather . . . never went out . . . never runned around . . . as far as girls, he was backward. He was bashful with girls. No pals of men either. Just stayed home. He's quiet and easy. Always comes in with a smile on his face. He don't smoke." His Uncle Bill Maher sometimes took him to St. Louis to watch the Browns play. "He loved baseball," Maher recalls, "just like any other boy. He used to go down to the neighborhood field and play baseball with the other boys. He was a pretty good shortstop. But you'd never see him hanging around on the corner with any of them."

Ray worked diligently for two years, 1944 to 1945. Then came a shock. Business at International Shoe fell off sharply, perhaps because of a cutback in defense orders. Jimmy Ray was laid off. It was not due to incompetence, or lack of ambition or willingness to work. He was a victim of circumstances. The older men with seniority had first claim on the remaining jobs.

There is no evidence that Ray was embittered. On the contrary, after putting in his last day in December, 1945, he promptly made plans to join the army. He was not yet 18, he could volunteer for induction and choose between Europe and the Pacific for his duty station. A few weeks later, on February 19, 1946, he went down to East St. Louis and enlisted. He picked Europe—specifically Germany—for his ultimate duty station. At the tannery, Ray had met a German emigré who had kindled his curiosity about the country and its people. The young boy, in fact, admired all things German. Ray left $1,180 tucked away in his Alton savings account, more money than his father had accumulated in a lifetime.

After basic training at Camp Crowder, Missouri, Ray was shipped off for duty in Europe. The war was over now. The infantry had done its job. The elite corps of the Occupation force was the military police. In wartime, they were little more than traffic cops, directing convoys toward the action. Now they were the symbol of authority, hated and respected with equal intensity. James Earl Ray was selected for the military police and assigned to the 382nd MP Battalion, stationed in Nürnberg, where the War Crimes Tribunal was organizing to punish the Nazis.

It was a curious and perhaps fatal assignment. Most MP's are tall, robust, assertive men with imposing physiques and commanding voices, priding themselves on their military bearing and jaunty uniforms. It is difficult to imagine James Earl Ray in such an outfit. He was very small, like his father. He was shy—painfully shy. He rarely spoke unless spoken to. His posture, his bearing, his general physical appearance was the antithesis of the MP. He slouched to the side when he sat down. He walked in a curious, loping, uncoordinated way, sort of a clodhopper shuffle. He found difficulty in looking a man directly in the eye.

Ray was an MP for about a year and a half, a jeep driver in Nürnberg. He went about his work quietly and proficiently. He regularly sent off postcards to members of the family—Uncle Bill Maher, Aunt Mabel, others. He sent most of his pay home—to savings, or to his father, who had been laid off from his railroad job and now lived in a sleazy house in "the Line" in Quincy. There is no evidence of trouble, no disciplinary action in the MP battalion. On the contrary, all signs point to a well-adjusted young soldier, proud of his status, thrifty, sober, celibate. He was on his way to rising above his environment.

Then something happened. What, exactly, has never been revealed. In April, 1948, Ray was abruptly drummed out of the MP's, transferred from the elite corps to the regular infantry—Company B, 16th Regiment. It may have been that some new captain or lieutenant, seeing Ray in the barracks or behind the wheel of his jeep, took exception to his military bearing, perhaps asked: "What's that hillbilly doing in my outfit? Get rid of him."

There seems little doubt that the transfer came as a stinging rebuke. It was another wound, a painful rejection that embittered Ray with the army and all it stood for. From that moment on, as he said later, he was determined to get out as fast as possible. The fastest—perhaps only—way out in those days was to provoke some disciplinary action.

On October 31, 1948, Ray was arrested—for being

drunk in quarters. Three days later, he attempted to
cape. He was tried by a special court-martial, convic
and confined to hard labor in the Nürnberg Military P
Stockade for three months; he forfeited $45 of his
for four months. Before half his sentence had been serv
out, the army concluded that Ray was not fit for milita
service. He was transferred back to the States. On Dece
ber 23, 1948, he was cashiered with a "general" discharg
(not honorable, but not dishonorable) and another stin
ing rebuke. The army stated officially that it ejected R
because of "ineptness and lack of adaptability to milita
service."

And what of Ray's admiration for things German?
was heightened by direct contact. A sister says: "There
no doubt about it. Jimmy liked Germany better than h
did the United States." Was it possible that his tour of du
in close proximity to the War Crimes Tribunal, which wa
prosecuting the great and near-great Nazis on an assembly-line basis, plucked a note of sympathy in the young private? And a corollary contempt for U.S. authority and justice? Says a sister: "When he got home from Germany, Jimmy was always yelling 'Heil Hitler'—and I don't think it was completely a joke." Perhaps not-completely.

5

"Just Don't Get Caught"

James Earl Ray arrived home from the Army in January, 1949. What he found in the dirty house at 214 Spring Street was less than encouraging. His father was not working. There was no money, little food. The indefatigable Lucille had given birth to two more children: Franklin Dennis (named for the President, whom she admired tremendously) and Susan, born while Ray was overseas. Now fat and disheveled, Lucille was drinking steadly—mostly

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Larry pleaded guilty
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en years—until Feb
Uncle Earl, who was

Gerry Ray, now 18, a dark, extroverted character, chatty and popular with girls, was only a few steps behind his older brothers. On the afternoon of February 1, 1954, Gerry and three other boys were riding around in a car in Quincy. A plot was hatched. They parked the car on 7th Street between Kentucky and State. Gerry and a boy named Mickey Walker got out of the car and walked to 8th Street. Just opposite the State Theater, Gerry and Mickey saw Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Schaefer walking along the sidewalk. Gerry ran by the couple, grabbing Mrs. Schaefer's purse. Mickey bumped Mr. Schaefer, throwing him off balance. Then the two boys ran back to the car. They drove down to the riverfront. The four boys divided the money in the purse—$85—and then burned the purse.

The boys were caught. Gerry was charged with grand larceny. He sought probation, but it was denied because of his previous record. At the trial on February 24, 1954, Judge Fred G. Wolfe sentenced Gerry to Menard to serve a minimum of two years and a maximum of five years. He entered prison as Gerald Ryan. In the year 1954, then, there were three Rays in Menard: John Larry, Gerry and Uncle Earl.

In Alton, James Earl Ray took a job in a gas station. Uncle Bill Maher, who had once happily taken young Jimmy to baseball games in St. Louis, now regarded his nephew with disdain. Would James Earl make it now on the outside world? The answer: no.

The night of August 27, 1954—a Saturday—was warm and rainy. In East Alton, a small town adjacent to Alton, a "merchant policeman"—a private cop hired by the owners of the shops and stores—named Andrew Biro made his rounds by car, peering into store windows in the business section to be sure all was well. Tony Biro, the father of nine children, was a small, scrappy man, dark, alert, a zealous cop with uncanny eyes who took himself and his job very seriously. That night Biro had a companion: Chaten Greenwood, an East Alton policeman. Shortly after 4 a.m., as they were cruising along Ponce Street near the viaduct, they passed the National Cleaners, a one-story establishment faced with fieldstone. Through the drizzle, Biro's eagle eye detected something amiss: one of the six-pane metal windows on the side of the building was

rom another mysterious man in a
off on a spree.
mes Earl Ray then had an automo-
icle worth perhaps $400 or $500.
cashed a few checks," Rife says.
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ltogether pleased with his accom-
orger," Rife says. "He'd walk into
ilty. He was heat personified."
l, was glib, professional. "I'd go in
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noyances. James Earl Ray was
and somewhat eccentric in be-
y, he insisted they sleep in cheap
ssippi they picked up a penniless
they stopped for food. They
amburger. He gobbled it down
's food. "Ray got real flustered,"
was guilty, or angry, or some-
w how to handle the situation.
d out. He was just a country boy
t. Petty little situations like this

vas an incredibly bad driver,"
ask directions, he'd just stop
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ple of girls, he'd turn his head
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t dance. Didn't know what to
sex, Rife said, he bought it,
y-order checks: jewelry and
boy. "He hardly drank at all.
Bourbon and Coke. Can you
s no drinker. But after he had
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a shower and shaved every
lean and neat."
s fists, Rife says. "We wound
s. I mean, if you go fishing,

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you've got to expect mosquitoes." Ray, Rife says, "was a mean, nasty fighter. He fought to win, no matter what it took, a club, knife or gun. I never saw him lose a fight." But, Rife says, "Ray didn't look for trouble. If somebody bothered him, he'd sit there for a long time, smoldering. He'd go a long way to find a way out of it, avoid it. But then, he'd explode and POW!" In one bar, Ray was annoyed by a drunk patron. He smoldered, said forget it, walked out. "But he came back in the back door," Rife says.

In the Deep South, according to Rife, James Earl Ray expressed a deep-seated hatred for black people. "He was prejudiced to the point that he hated to see a colored person breathe," Rife says. "You could gather from his conversation that if it was up to him, there wouldn't be any colored people. They would either be shipped back to Africa or disposed of in some way."

In Florida, Walter Rife became enchanted with an automobile on a used-car lot, a maroon 1949 Lincoln. Rife, pockets bulging with cash, dickered. He and the salesman were only a few dollars apart when Ray, to Rife's amazement, offered to throw his car in on the deal as a trade. "I don't know what possessed him to do it," Rife says. "Ordinarily he was so chintzy. The only thing I can figure is he didn't want to drive back north by himself."

The two men headed home. In Florida, Ray passed a $50 money order, signing the name Willard McBride. In Hot Springs, Arkansas, on March 20, he cashed a $75 money order addressed to McBride at the Askay Art Galleries. And another for $75 at the Biles Music Company. And another at Dino's Store for men. Rife passed three $75 money orders at Brown's Department Store, Pfeiffers and Charles Weaver's. They headed for Kansas City. But the postal inspectors, following their trail from the cards rejected by the computer, were drawing the noose tight.

On March 21, a blizzard was raging in Kansas City. Ray made his way to Askins, a men's clothing store. The manager, Joe Isaacson, fitted Ray with a new suit of clothes. Ray paid with a postal money order. Ray returned to his hotel, saying he would call for the suit later. The credit manager in Askins was suspicious of the money order. He telephoned the postal inspectors. An inspector was on the

mother, brothers, sisters.
a beeline for his family, if
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rnished by Ray to Huie and
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own near Alton, the county
arl Ray's father was married,
ted James Earl Ray in 1954
bery in East Alton, and in
ery robbery. After nightfall
ranger, a fugitive, would be
wardsville, he took a terrible
l the bus stations in St. Louis
g watched; that he was safer
mlet like Edwardsville. Cer-
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fugitive facing as much time
ore time if caught—would
find a way to flee the coun-
for the more affluent, Brazil,
extradite criminals. But, as
ust have certain necessities.

The most important of these is "I.D."—some form of identification. America is a land of identification cards: driver's license, social-security card, draft card, credit cards, birth certificates. Without these, or one of these, it is difficult for a man to move about, to get a job, or to apply for passports and other official papers.

According to the account he supplied Huie, Ray moved into a rooming house at 2731 North Sheffield in Chicago, registering in a $14-a-week room there on April 30—a week after his escape—as John Larry Rayns. This is an amalgam of his brother's name—John Larry Ray or Ryan—and his father's current last name, and perhaps a last name John Larry has used from time to time. It is perhaps merely a coincidence that Ray picked an alias of the man who had visited him at Jeff City the day before he escaped. When he arrived in Chicago, Ray also had a social-security number—#318–24–7098—in the name of John Rayns, an alias and number Huie says he remembered from around "1951" (but none of his official arrest records indicate Ray was using that—or any alias—in 1951). It is remarkable that he could remember a nine-digit number after 16 years.

On May 3, 1967, this ad was published in the *Chicago Tribune:*

> **Kitchen man and dishwasher. 6-day wk. $94. For north suburban restaurant. Call Indian Trail at HI 6-1703.**

The Indian Trail is a family-style restaurant in the fashionable suburban town of Winnetka, just north of Chicago. It specializes in "plain home-cooked food" and does an impressive business. It has been operated by friendly, home-folk owners, Clara and Harvey Klingeman, and Clara's sister Elly, for about 35 years. In May, 1967, the kitchen help was a formidable army: 27 Negroes and four Filipinos. James Earl Ray responded to the ad in the *Tribune* and was hired as a dishwasher—giving his name as John L. Ray and the John Ray social-security number, but no card.

It is perhaps merely another coincidence that Ray's brother Gerry lived and worked at a country club within ten miles of the Indian Trail Restaurant, maintaining a

e's account, he did not arrive until
ɔent the night in the Grenada Hotel.
counted for. There, as Ray told Huie,
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t 26, as Eric S. Galt, Ray took a
surroundings. He registered in a
:r-class southside neighborhood—
y stucco building with a red tile
Avenue, known as the Economy
sign: "We serve Maxwell House
do not ask for I.D. Cash talks.
ɔy 72-year-old Peter N. Cherpes.
or 18 roomers. Ray-Galt intro-
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ɔn. Ray-Galt said he had been
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According to Huie, Ray was
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ɔoms, Ray-Galt made little
ɔd-looking man," Cherpes

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says. "A quiet fellow. Didn't have much to say. Looked at color TV in the sitting room a lot. Oh, he was pleasant and would speak when spoken to, but he didn't talk about himself much. I think he told me he was divorced. He ate all of his meals here excepting the last week, when he ate out. I don't know where. He spoke with a southern accent and dressed well, usually a suit with a tie . . . especially a plaid sports suit. He usually turned in early, didn't go out much. He never had telephone calls or visitors."

According to the Huie account, "Raoul" now wrote Ray-Galt a letter care of general delivery advising Ray to meet him "that night" at the Starlight Cafe, opposite the U.S. Post Office on Fifth Avenue North. Ray-Galt picked up the letter on Monday, August 28. If the mail had been a day late, Ray-Galt might have missed the rendezvous. That morning, Ray rented a safe-deposit box (#5517) at the Birmingham Trust National Bank. According to Huie, Ray-Galt gave as a reference one "Karl Galt," 2515 Lafayette Street, St. Louis. His late brother "Buzzy" lived on Lafayette Street in St. Louis, but there is no 2515. At 2:32, according to bank records, Ray opened his box. He told Huie that he placed inside his Rayns I.D., "Raoul's" telephone number and a "little money," a portion of the $750 "Raoul" had given him in Detroit, one presumes, or perhaps most of it. That night, in the Starlight, "Raoul" told Ray to get a good automobile—something in the neighborhood of $2,000. They would meet again the following night, August 28, in the Starlight.

Two days before, on August 27, William D. Paisley, the sales manager of a Birmingham lumber company, ran the following advertisement in the classified section of the Birmingham *News:*

> **Mustang. '66, V-8, auto trans. Radio, W.W. tires, factory warranty. Individual, $1,995. 592-0448.**

The day after meeting "Raoul," Tuesday, August 28, Ray telephoned Paisley about his ad and arranged to come see the car at 6 p.m. Ray arrived by cab. Paisley drove him around the block. Ray did not like the color—white—but he said he would buy. "He didn't try to cut the price at all," Paisley says. They met the next morning—August 30—in front of Ray's bank. Ray counted out $2,000 in cash.

-could provide a dramatic pretext for
decisive outbreak of violence and riot-
of turmoil in the United States. If the
fficient intensity, it might raise the need
soldiers from Vietnam to provide pro-
ities.

in fact, on June 22, New York police
ıt Negroes, two of whom were alleged
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lerates, Roy Wilkins and Whitney M.
to the indictment, the Negroes were
orist group known as RAM—Revolu-
vement. The reported founder of RAM,
led to Cuba in 1961, and then to Com-
FBI described RAM as pro-Red China
itted to the overthrow of governments
ssassination. One of the two men in-
the assassination of Young and Wilkins
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ıs. He was later convicted. The charges
on had scouted the homes and offices
ıung to establish movement and escape
orted they found ten rifles, a machine
s and a shotgun in Ferguson's home at
st.

nspirators, there remains this very im-
how—or why—did they make contact
ay? Up to this point, Ray had been in
nonentity in Jeff City, with no special
ble connections with extremist organiza-
ce, at least, he would seem an unlikely
icated conspirators. After his escape,
ed, he was with "friends" in the Alton-
hen a dishwasher in Winnetka, leading
rooming house. Even assuming a group
d somehow found Ray—or he them—
ly to invite a stranger into their midst?
aps? Ray had no record as a killer. In
ted above, the conspirators themselves
actual killing. Why take on an ex-
wn outsider?

account Ray gave Huie, Ray was not

part of a conspiracy when he arrived in Canada. He had sworn to himself that he would never again cross the border into the United States. He had arrived in Montreal with the spur-of-the-moment alias Eric S. Galt. His sole ambition was to get on a ship and sail to obscurity in Latin America. He says he hung out on the waterfront, job hunting for a berth on a ship, or hoping to roll a drunk sailor and get his I.D.—passport and merchant-marine papers. At night he drank sparingly in rough seaman's bars, letting the word go out that he was available for special work if the risk were not too great. In one such bar, the Neptune, Ray told Huie, he met a blond Latin, "Raoul," about 35 years old, who might have some special work. They began hushed talks.

Enter now, another mystery about Ray's finances. Ray told Huie that he only had $70 left after paying his room and board at the Har-K rooming house. That was on the afternoon of July 18. Yet on the very next day, July 19, Ray appeared at the Tip Top Tailors to splurge money on fancy new clothes. A salesman, J. B. Cloutier, fitted him for a new powder-blue Botany suit. He also bought gray slacks, a red T-shirt, a yellow T-shirt, yellow swim trunks, red pajamas, socks, underwear and neckties. In all, about $200 worth. Two days later he appeared at yet another haberdasher, English and Cottonwood Limited. A salesman, Edward John Feigin, fitted Ray for yet another suit. (This suit, when completed, was mailed to Ray in Alabama.) Then he had his nails manicured at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel!

According to the Ray-Huie account, Ray paid for these items by robbing a Montreal whorehouse of $800. He says he spent $25 casing the establishment one night, then robbed it the next. If he cased it at the first possible opportunity, the night he arrived in Montreal, July 18, then he robbed it on July 19. But he arrived at Tip Top Tailors to spend $200 on July 19—*before the robbery.*

Then, about a week later—July 31—Ray did an amazing thing for a man so desperate for cash. He took off for a week of luxurious loafing in a posh Laurentian resort. The room alone cost him $153. He must have spent at least another $20 a day on drinks and entertainment. Altogether, say, $300. Conceivably, this lark was financed

rehouse robbery—if there was such a rob-
n, spent upward of $600 on clothes and play,
shing fling.
t, the Ray who arrived at the resort had
astonishing transformation. Here in this un-
xury Ray, as Eric S. Galt, appeared to be
vorld, a poor man's jet-setter. He was well
is nails manicured. He hung out in the bars,
e make. He met, according to Huie, a "culti-
a high-level employee of the Canadian gov-
nd doubt one of the "most attractive" on
t payroll. Ray-Galt was extraordinarily at-
ing. He *danced*. He took her to bed and

rk, the extraordinary transformation, oc-
an be no doubt. Huie, a careful reporter,
sort, found the girl, talked to her. Ray's
the lark: he hoped to find a girl who would
and as a reference so he could get a pass-
t she had known him for two years.
anation raises more questions than it an-
thing, he must have known that the refer-
at for a passport was easily circumvented.
for that purpose seems far out of propor-
l. Suppose he was unable to meet a girl
o him. Ray had never been noted for his
with girls. Even if one did, he would have
the name Eric S. Galt. Suppose someone
S. Galt already held a Canadian passport.
d in that name, he would be found out.
get a birth certificate in the name Eric S.
ie were purely a concoction by Ray, there
ord of his birth. Beyond all that stands the
e money he blew in the Laurentians he
ght forged identity papers that were safe.
inating aspect of the lark is Ray-Galt's
formation in character. Almost overnight
a frugal, shy hillbilly who was a dish-
d in a flophouse to a natty, manicured
danced in a luxury resort and went out
urt women. Those who knew Ray find
on utterly remarkable, if not unbeliev-

able. It was almost as if a different person had come on the scene, a double (leading to the speculation that now, and later, there were *two* Ray-Galts). Many believe that the transformation could not have occurred on the spur of the moment. That it was the first step in a long, well-thought-out plan to create a fictitious identity, a part of which was the selection of the name Galt itself. If so, then Ray must have conceived the new identity in Jeff City, or shortly after his escape. Those who believe this also believe he went up to the Laurentians with plenty of money available: he would not gamble money on a lark. And all of this speculation lends weight, of course, to the theory that Ray had money stashed away and was acting alone, executing an exotic plan conceived behind bars.

By his own admission, Ray-Galt was not yet recruited into the "conspiracy."

Ray, in fact, left the cultivated girl behind in the Laurentians on August 7, saying he was rushing to meet his "brother" in Montreal. He had told her the night before that he "worked for" his brother "in some kind of business" and that the old red Plymouth was his brother's wife's car—a jalopy for hauling groceries. So far as is known, it was the first time Ray mentioned to anyone that he had a brother, or that he had business with a brother. In the coming months, Ray would mention three times again that he was embarked on this or that enterprise with a "brother." Partly on the basis of these statements, the initial FBI indictment against Ray also mentioned a "brother." Did Ray mean John Larry, who visited him the day before he escaped from Jeff City? Or Gerry, who lived so close by when Ray worked—as John L. Rayns—in the Indian Trail in Winnetka? Or was it merely a small lie? In any case, neither brother has been formally charged in the case.

Back in Montreal, Ray told Huie, it was not his brother but "Raoul" he was rushing to meet. Raoul—if there was a Raoul—may have resembled John Larry. He was about John Larry's age—35 or 36—and was, like John Larry, blond. (The name Raoul, French or Spanish for Ralph, is not far from Ray.) In the coming months, Ray-Galt himself would try to pass himself off as "Raoul's" age—35 or 36.

1959, it must have been between his release from Leavenworth and his arrest for the Kroger grocery holdup in St. Louis, perhaps another vacation, an unwinding from the rigors of his profession. But now—eight years later—the frugal Ray-Galt was in for a jolt. Acapulco had been discovered by first the jet set and then the prop-jet set and then the prop set. Prices were sky-high. Every Mexican had his hand out. Burning, Ray-Galt turned north to Puerto Vallarta, a posh, offbeat little jet-set hangout north of Acapulco.

On the night of October 19, 12 days after leaving Birmingham, he checked into the Rio Hotel. He gave his address as the Economy Grill and Rooms. He signed the register in his unmistakable hand, "Eric Galt." He remained at the Rio for 19 days, then shifted to another hotel, right on the beach, the Tropicana, where he stopped another week—until November 13. The hotel employees recall him only vaguely. He was "quiet." He kept company with prostitutes, but in contrast to Canada there was no white-hot intimate affair with a "cultivated" mystery woman. Someone remembered him saying, "After I make a big score, I'm gonna come down here and live on beer and beans." Ray-Galt was just one more rich *norteamericano* tourist, basking in the sun, haunting the bars at night, living the life of the superrich. But no one remembers him as an avid photographer—with expensive equipment. The employees remember only the white Mustang. Someone—perhaps Ray-Galt or one of his girl friends—glued two Mexican *turista* stickers on the side window of the car.

Or was he merely a simple tourist? He may not have been. Investigative authorities in Memphis have said that during his stay in Mexico, Ray was engaged in smuggling, as he had been in Canada. In Mexico, they say, Ray picked up contraband jewelry and smuggled it across the border, to a person, or persons, unknown.

Ray-Galt now drove north to Los Angeles. Why? Another mystery. He told Huie he went there to try to find a job on a ship—just in case Raoul didn't come through? In late November, he rented a room at 1535 North Serrano Avenue from Mrs. Margarita Powers. The house was in a sleazy neighborhood of low-slung California bungalows, on the fringe of glamorous Hollywood. He signed in as Eric

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S. Galt. (Curiously,
this address.) He hu
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desia has no formal diplomatic ties with the United States, extradition would be impossible.

What was the purpose of this letter? Was it a ruse—meant to be discovered at some later date, a red herring to deflect investigators in the direction of Rhodesia in pursuit of the fictional Eric Galt? Or was it earnestly meant? If it was earnestly meant, if Ray-Galt was seriously inquiring about ways and means to emigrate to Rhodesia without a passport, then why? The mysterious Latin, Raoul, had repeatedly promised Ray-Galt I.D. and money to go anywhere in the world, including a passport. Did Ray-Galt fear Raoul might renege on that part of the deal? Was he hedging his bets? Seeking an alternate escape tunnel he could use without a passport in case Raoul failed to come through? Or was there no Raoul, and was the lone wolf preparing his own escape route?

Whatever the reason, the response was not encouraging. The Council mailed Ray-Galt a routine reply, stating that it did not handle such inquiries. The Council, which represents five African nations, was organized primarily to promote tourism, or so it claims.

After mailing off the letter, Ray-Galt abruptly changed his living quarters. From Serrano Avenue he moved to the St. Francis Hotel on Hollywood Boulevard, above the Sultan Bar. The St. Francis is not a fleabag. It is an old, rundown establishment with worn carpeting and an elderly clientele, including many permanent residents. Ray-Galt took suite #408, a small apartment, with a living room (a Murphy bed in the wall), a full kitchen and a small dinette. The rent was $95 a month, including a special parking place in the lot out back.

Ray-Galt caused little notice. The hotel manager, Alan Thompson, remembers him at mail call by the front desk every morning at 10:30, and recalls mail forwarded from Serrano Avenue, probably including the reply from the Council. Ray-Galt always wore a jacket and tie, and as a roomer, Thompson says, he was "absolutely immaculate . . . one of the best . . . no trouble at all . . . one of the rare ones." During this time, Ray-Galt had his laundry done at The Homes Service Laundry Company, down the block from the hotel. An employee, Mrs. Mary Lucy Pinela, stamped Ray's laundry with a special mark. He also

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bought a hammer and a pa
Hardware Store.

Ray-Galt had enrolled
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Ray-Galt picked the N
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Ray-Galt is remembered
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bought a hammer and a pair of pliers, probably at Ramage Hardware Store.

Ray-Galt had enrolled on December 5 in a dancing school. Why? He told Huie that his purpose was to learn Latin dance steps so that he would feel at home when he finally settled below the border. But if his real intent was to find refuge in Rhodesia, as indicated by his inquiry to the Council, then why Latin steps? More likely, the dancing lessons were merely one more detail in the careful plan to establish the fictional identity of Eric S. Galt. James Earl Ray was no dancer. Everybody knew that. Ray-Galt was an avid dancer in the Laurentians, took lessons in Birmingham and in Los Angeles.

Ray-Galt picked the National Dance Studio in Long Beach, a slickly modern, clean, efficiently run establishment with a roster of sober middle-class students. He arrived at the studio shortly after returning from the trip to New Orleans. He talked with manager Rodney Arvidson about the course of instruction, and signed up for one of the most comprehensive: a three-month, 50-hour course that cost $465. Ray-Galt gave Arvidson $100 in cash for a deposit. At the next lesson, he paid the $365 balance in cash, much of it with $20 bills.

Ray-Galt is remembered well at the studio. "He seemed to be a southern gentleman," Arvidson says. "He was neatly dressed, but not sharply dressed, except for the alligator shoes he wore all the time. He was the shy, withdrawn type of individual." Andreas Jorgensen, an instructor, says: "One time I talked with him for an hour and tried to break him down. Every time the conversation got personal, he became quiet. He was a real clam." Kathy Norton, a young, pretty instructor who wears miniskirts, says: "He told me he had a restaurant or bar along the coast of Mexico somewhere. But he was very vague about it." Another instructor, Sharon, who remembers Ray-Galt's gold ring studded with dark stones, his white shirt and carefully knotted tie, says: "He was embarrassed about dancing. He'd tug at his ear and smile that little crooked smile."

Now Ray-Galt turned to the most difficult of his problems: creating some kind of "employment" for Galt. In Montreal, in the Laurentians, he had told the cultivated

Canadian girl he had been working for his brother. In Birmingham he was an ex-shipyard worker on vacation. On his Alabama driver's license application he was "Merchant Marine." All fictitious, and for good reason. Finding employment in America for a fictitious character is not easy. Employers ask for references, employment records, social security card, other identification. They withhold income taxes. They send records to Washington.

Ray-Galt made a stab. He ran an ad in the Los Angeles *Times* offering himself as a "culinary." He had a social-security number—the one he had given to Mrs. Klingeman at the Indian Trail in Winnetka. It was a "safe" number; he had used it before. (At Social Security headquarters, the number is the only thing that matters. As an official says: "People change their names all the time. We couldn't keep track of that.") Ray-Galt received three job offers. But each employer asked for references and a social-security card. Ray-Galt could not supply these. He was turned away.

In another country—Latin America, Rhodesia—he would not need these annoying papers and numbers. But he would need a skill. As a well-dressed American abroad, he could not very well list his only previous experience as "dishwasher" or "culinary." Where would a dishwasher get money to go abroad? It would arouse immediate suspicion, perhaps bring an investigation. But where could Ray-Galt acquire a skill in a short time? Something that would not be demeaning or arouse undue notice? The answer: he would become a bartender. He could learn that trade in less than two months. Bartenders make enough money to travel abroad. They are a kind of restless, international breed, shifting from one country to another. It was a perfect long-term cover, not apt to ever arouse suspicion.

One of the bartenders in the Sultan Room, Gil Martin, says he gave Ray-Galt the idea. But Ray-Galt may have had the idea earlier and merely asked certain questions, giving Martin the impression it had been his idea. Ray's brother John Larry had taken a bartender course, and had worked as a bartender in New York, and later at his sister Carol Jean's place in St. Louis, the Grapevine. So, as Ray had earlier chosen his brother's name for an alias, his age, his love of vodka and orange juice, he now chose his trade.

On January 19, Ray-Galt appeared at the International School of Bartending on Sunset Boulevard, not far from the St. Francis Hotel by Los Angeles standards. The school was not impressive from the outside. Except for the sign on the front, it might have been taken for a store in an ordinary neighborhood. It was not even a permanent location: by the following summer it would have moved to Alvarado Street.

Inside, the school looked very much like a cocktail lounge. There was a long "training" bar, sleekly modern, a few small tables, soft lights, heavy carpet. Behind the bar were dozens of whiskey bottles—filled with water—and a vast variety of highball, liquor and cocktail glasses. Presiding over the "school" was the "director," a genial Latin named Tomas Reyes Lau. Lau was a dapper, very precise man, with swarthy skin, dark eyes, sharply trimmed moustache, given to alligator shoes and corduroy trousers and sports jackets.

Lau invited Ray-Galt into the small "office." He showed him the elaborate "course book" (authorized by law) and explained that by "graduation" time, six weeks hence, Ray-Galt would know how to mix 110 different drinks. He would also be taught poise, style, personality improvement, confidence, coordination, balance, hygiene and psychology—presumably how to be a sympathetic listener, or how to evict a noisy drunk without traumatizing him or other bar patrons. "Students" at the school would work behind the bar three to six hours a day, be "graded" in a dozen categories. At "graduation" Ray-Galt would receive a diploma and have his picture taken in a tuxedo jacket and formal shirt and black tie. There were many pictures of former graduates tacked on the wall. The fee was $220.

Ray-Galt gave Lau the impression that he was "desperate" to get a job and go to work as soon as possible. He gave Lau the $220 fee in cash. He filled out an application blank, giving his address as the St. Francis Hotel. He gave his date of birth as July 30, 1931—very close to the date of birth of his brother John Larry, born June 19, 1931. As references, he listed Maria Deninno at the St. Francis, Rita Stein—Charles Stein's sister—and Charles Deninno (another name for Stein?), at the Steins' residence, 5666 Franklin Avenue. He listed a "Mr. Weller" of 741 S. Figueroa Street as a former employer who had paid him $50 a week. Although he had passed himself off as "desperate" for a job, it is certain that Ray-Galt never intended to apply for a job as a bartender in America upon graduation. He knew the problem of the social-security card, the references, the employment record. More important: in many cities, including Los Angeles, bartenders are required to register with police when they take a job dispensing liquor. Often, applicants are fingerprinted and investigated by police departments. That was a risk Ray-Galt could not afford.

Ray-Galt applied himself conscientiously, eagerly. "He was a nice fellow with a nice personality," Lau recalls. "He was very intelligent. He had the ability to develop this type of service." Lau found him almost ideal: "Quiet and reserved," as a good bartender should be. Ray-Galt had a "slight southern accent."

It was a very important, almost crucial undertaking for Ray-Galt. He was committed now, totally committed. If he failed the course, he had no further options. Time was running out. So intent was Ray-Galt on making it that he visited a "specialist" on self-improvement, the Reverend Xavier von Koss, head of the International Society of Hypnosis, according to Huie, "an internationally recognized authority on hypnosis and self-hypnosis in the field of self-improvement." Ray-Galt said he had been reading up on mind concentration and self-improvement. Von Koss suggested hypnosis, but Ray-Galt declined, perhaps fearful that he might reveal something he shouldn't. The Reverend von Koss gave Ray-Galt three self-improvement books to take along: *How to Cash in on Your Hidden Memory Power; Self-Hypnotism: The Technique and Its Use in Daily Living;* and *Psycho-Cybernetics.*

So intent was Ray-Galt on making good that he terminated his dancing lessons on February 12, forfeiting the large fee he had paid for the course. Says Rod Arvidson: "He said he planned to open a bar in the Los Angeles area. That was the reason he gave us for leaving before the course was completed. He wanted to concentrate on his

bartending course." His explanation, of course, was not quite the whole truth."

Journalist Louis Lomax believes that at about this time Ray-Galt made another whirlwind trip to New Orleans and vicinity. Lomax says that on Valentine's Day, February 14, Ray-Galt swapped his console TV with a girl in return for her portable TV, and during this transaction Ray-Galt told her he was "leaving town." Lomax (who claims to have found the girl) believes that Ray-Galt then drove to New Orleans and delivered a package to a family there from their daughter in Los Angeles. Afterward, Ray-Galt drove to Birmingham. In that city, Ray-Galt bought gas and received Green Stamps, proof of the trip.

Beyond Lomax's speculation, there is no further evidence that Ray-Galt made a trip to New Orleans in mid-February. Ray himself makes no mention of it in his account to Huie. The Green Stamps do not prove he was in Birmingham in February; Green Stamps are not dated. Ray-Galt could have acquired them the previous September when he lived in Birmingham. If he made the trip, he would have missed classes at the bartending school, perhaps too many to "graduate." Besides that, he was busy on another of his purposeful projects.

On February 19, in Los Angeles, Ray-Galt visited a plastic surgeon, Dr. Russel C. Hadley. Ray-Galt was concerned about two prominent physical features that might conceivably draw attention to him—especially in a photograph. One was the little tip on the end of his nose. The other was the drooping left ear lobe. In Hadley's office, Ray-Galt filled out a form, listing his birth date again close to that of John Larry—July 20, 1931—and his closest relative as "Carl L. Galt," 2608 Highland in Birmingham, the address of the Economy Grill and Rooms. Dr. Hadley removed the "tip" two weeks later on March 5.

Meanwhile, Ray-Galt had successfully completed the course in bartending. He "graduated" on March 2, a brief, cheery interlude in Lau's small office. Ray-Galt received his "diploma." Then he stood holding his diploma in the name of Eric S. Galt before a camera for his graduation picture with Lau. The color photograph that resulted is remarkable in at least one respect: It bears little or no resemblance to the faceless James Earl Ray. He is wearing a school tuxedo jacket, white shirt and thin black bow tie. True, his left ear protrudes noticeably like Ray's, but any likeness ends there. One reason may be that Ray-Galt had his eyes firmly closed—no doubt deliberately—when the shutter clicked. Without eyes, a face like Ray's could resemble millions of others.

Lau informed Ray-Galt that he had lined up a bartending job. But the Ray-Galt who had given the impression he was "desperate" for work six weeks earlier declined. "I have to leave to see my brother," Ray-Galt said. "What good would it do for me to work for only two or three weeks? I'd better wait until I return to town and get a permanent job." When Ray-Galt telephoned Lau a week later on some routine matter, Lau again offered him a job. Again, Ray-Galt declined.

Was Ray-Galt, in fact, off to see a "brother"? No one knows. But interestingly it was the second time Ray-Galt had used seeing a brother as an excuse to terminate a relationship and shift the scene of his operation.

About this time, an incident occurred in Alabama that would later assume a curious aspect, another minor—or perhaps important—mystery in the unfolding drama. On about the last day in February, according to Captain T. L. Payne of the Alabama Highway Patrol, someone identifying himself as Eric S. Galt telephoned the license division requesting a duplicate driver's license. The duplicate was mailed to Galt, together with a bill for 25¢, on March 1, to the Economy Grill and Rooms in Birmingham. There, according to manager Peter Cherpes, the duplicate license was picked off the front hall table, by a person unseen and therefore unknown, on or about March 2 or 3. The license division received the 25¢ payment on March 6.

The incident cannot be dismissed lightly. It is the only proof that Ray-Galt may have had an accomplice in his enterprise. Conceivably, Ray-Galt could have telephoned long distance requesting the duplicate. But he could not have picked it up at the Economy Grill and Rooms on March 2 or 3. On March 2, he was in Los Angeles, "graduating." On March 5, he had his nose operated on. He visited Dr. Hadley for postoperative treatment on March 7 and March 11.

was called upon to deal with another protest movement, the garbage strike in Memphis. The trouble there had begun two months before, in February. The city's 1,300 garbage collectors, 90% Negro, had petitioned the Mayor, Henry Loeb, for a modest wage and compensation increase. Loeb stubbornly refused. The garbage collectors struck. Tempers flared; no mediation seemed possible. The collectors sent an appeal to King: come and help dramatize the impasse. King responded to the call reluctantly.

On March 17, the day Ray left Los Angeles, King was the principal speaker at the important California Democratic convention in Los Angeles. The next day he flew to Memphis. Then he went to Atlanta. On March 20, he was in Mississippi. Then Alabama. Then Atlanta. On March 28, he was back in Memphis, to lead the protest march. The march erupted in violence. In the melee men were killed. His nonviolent philosophy, his leadership of the black community were on trial.

He remained in Memphis March 29, returning to Atlanta on March 30. On April 1, he was in Washington, where he gave a moving address to 3,000 people, mostly white, in the Washington Cathedral. He had made public his intention to lead a second march in Memphis on April 6.

On March 29, while King was in Memphis, James Earl Ray appeared in the Aero Marine Supply Company, a sporting-goods store near the main entrance of the Birmingham airport. There, using the name Harvey Lowmeyer, with a Birmingham address, Ray purchased a .243-caliber Winchester rifle with a Redfield telescopic sight from salesman U. L. Baker. A customer, John De Shazo, observed the purchase. Why he shifted to yet another alias has not been revealed. The Birmingham address was false. It was part of the plan, perhaps.

That afternoon, Ray-Lowmeyer telephoned the Aero Marine Supply Company. He spoke to another salesman, Donald F. Wood. Ray-Lowmeyer said he had talked with "his brother" and wanted to exchange the rifle for another. Ray-Lowmeyer left the impression he was "going deer hunting in Wisconsin with a brother or brother-in-law." It was the third time Ray had mentioned a "brother" in public. Ray-Lowmeyer wanted to exchange the rifle for a larger caliber, a 30.06. Wood said, "Fine, bring the other rifle in

at nine o'clock in the morning." Ray-Lowmeyer did, and picked up a Remington at three that afternoon. The Remington was a Model 760 Gamemaster Pump Action 30.06, serial number 461476. Wood shifted the Redfield sight (serial number 17350) to the new rifle. With the sight attached, the rifle would not fit in its regular box. So Wood put it in a Browning automatic shotgun box, and Scotch-taped it closed. The final bill was $150, which Ray-Lowmeyer paid in cash.

Why had Ray exchanged rifles? He had apparently already bought at least six heavy dumdum-type bullets elsewhere. These bullets could not be fired in the Winchester without mechanically filing the rim of the firing pin so it would make contact with the cartridge cap. It was easier to exchange rifles.

Ray then returned directly to Atlanta. On the day after he got the Remington, March 31, he paid Garner another week's rent. At that time, Ray wrote his name—Eric S. Galt—on an envelope. Either at this time, or five days later, Ray-Galt left Garner a note saying he had to return to Birmingham, and would be back later for the television and other personal effects. He may have left his note in the envelope bearing his name. On the envelope, he left a fingerprint.

The next day, April 1, Ray took some laundry to the Piedmont Laundry around the corner from Jimmy Garner's rooming house. He left it in the name of Eric S. Galt with a clerk, Mrs. Annie Peters. Then he turned the Mustang westward, toward Memphis. On the night of April 2, he spent the night in a motel in Mississippi, registered in the name of Eric S. Galt. The next day, April 3, Ray-Galt stopped at the Rexall Drug Store in Whitehaven, Tennessee, and bought some toilet articles, including a bottle of after-shave lotion.

That same morning, Dr. King arrived at the Eastern Air Line sheep run at the Atlanta airport to catch a plane for Memphis. There, Eastern officials informed him the flight had been delayed; rumor had it that someone had planted a bomb on the plane. King and his associates sat in the desegregated waiting room while the plane was searched. King was not alarmed, merely wildly annoyed by the delay. He had come to accept threats to his life as routine. "For the heat full blast. On the same day the fingerprints were matched, the FBI released Ray's name, record and other data, including a precise physical description, and a gallery of photographs—those taken at the time of his previous arrests. On the following day, beneath banner headlines, Ray's photograph was published on the front page of most of the major newspapers. Reporters set to work digging into his past, stitching together the threads of the Ray family and its history, manfully grappling with the bewildering variety of names—Ray, Ryan, Rayn, Raynes, Raines—the many children.

So did the FBI. The focus of the manhunt now shifted to the Midwest. Suspicion fell on Gerry and John Larry as possible accomplices. The St. Louis FBI office became the command post in this new search: the lights burned all night in the Federal Building. Agents scurried in and out at all hours with scraps of information, compiling an exhaustive biography of Ray, his family, his cohorts, his past accomplices. It was hoped that from this mass of information a clear picture of Ray the man and his habits would emerge, and thus lead them to his probable hiding place. While this hunt was in progress, the Bureau also alerted Mexican authorities and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Ray had visited both those countries since his escape from Jeff City and prior to the assassination. He might have returned to either.

The FBI found Gerry Ray working as a maintenance man at a country club in suburban Chicago. Not long afterward, enterprising Chicago reporters also found Gerry Ray. Gerry probably told both FBI agents, who fully cleared him, and reporters the same story. He said that the last contact he had had with James Earl Ray was a letter—addressed to Gerry's Wheeling, Illinois, post-office box—a week before James escaped from Jeff City. James had made no effort to contact any members of the family since his escape.

"He won't contact anybody in the family," Gerry said. "I'm sure of that. The FBI will be watching all of us."

Gerry was one of those who believed that James was probably part of a "giant" conspiracy. He thought his brother had been "used" in some way, probably as the "fall guy" and not the killer. "If he did it, which I doubt," tains, a double bed with pink and white spread, an old television set, three straight-backed chairs, a three-drawer chest with mirror, and on the wall, two faded portraits of Jesus Christ and a flowery homily: Home Sweet Home. Ray, who told Mrs. Szpakowski that he was a salesman for the real-estate firm of Mann and Martel, paid her a week's rent—$10—with a single Canadian bill.

Mrs. Szpakowski says that Ray was the "ideal" roomer. He was quiet, kept to himself, made no unusual demands. He paid his rent in advance and on time. He left the house every morning at 8:30, sometimes came home briefly at midday, and returned in the evening at 6:30, just after supper. What he did during the day is a mystery. He may have gone down to the bar at Ossington and Queen to drink beer or shoot pool. He may have eaten at the nearby Columbia or Gor Vale restaurants. A barber in the shop near College street thinks he gave Ray a haircut. A clerk in Ball's Drug Store thinks Ray bought gum, aspirin and after-shave lotion.

Mrs. Szpakowski, an amateur student of human nature, noticed something not quite right about Ray. "He was so worried-looking all the time," she recalls. "Such a deep thinker. I thought maybe he was worried about his family. He looked sad. I thought once he might have been from the mental hospital down the street." At night, he brought food to his room and watched television.

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Sometime during the week, the telephone at 102 Ossington Avenue rang. The caller asked for Mr. Paul Bridgman. Mrs. Szpakowski's eight-year-old daughter Lidia answered. She assumed the call—it was apparently a local call—was for the new man in the second floor, front. Who called—or why—has never been revealed. Another mystery.

On Thursday, April 11, the day the FBI impounded the white Mustang in Atlanta, Ray appeared about noon at the Arcade Photo Studio on Yonge Street. Ray, under the name of Bridgman, said he wanted a passport photograph. Mrs. Mabel Agnew ushered Ray-Bridgman into the rear of the studio, which is adorned with two primping mirrors and a travel poster for Holland. Ray-Bridgman sat on a piano stool in front of a plain white backdrop paper, stared into the lens. The camera clicked. The pro

for a passport photo was $2 for
told Ray-Bridgman about a sp
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Ray left, returning in about a
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The next day, April 12, Goo
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On Tuesday, April 16, Ray
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Then he went to the Kennedy-T
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Ray said he wanted to go to
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Ray did not have a passport. N
said, she could easily arrange that.
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ces for Bridgman (mother's maiden
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ing the new address.
18, the Toronto newspapers carried
Eric Starvo Galt and "a brother"
te Dr. King's civil rights. They also
of the photograph obtained from
in Los Angeles, one with Ray's
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(The eyes were a wrong guess—
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er on the second floor, front. Her
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At about 11:30 that morning there was a telephone call for Paul Bridgman. Ray came down and answered. The conversation was brief; Ray said almost nothing. He hung up. Who it was telephoned is another mystery. Then he went out and bought a newspaper. That night Ray packed up. The next day—April 19—he left without notice: simply walked out, leaving the key on the downstairs hall table. When Mrs. Szpakowski went up to clean the room, she found a copy of the Toronto *Star* opened to a photograph of her boarder. In spite of her intuition, her suspicion, she passed it off. After all, her husband had said she was crazy. If she notified the police, they might come to the same conclusion. She'd look ridiculous. Besides, he was such a gentleman, he couldn't be a killer.

The new boardinghouse was only about seven blocks away from the first. It is a red-brick structure, semidetached, with arched stained-glass windows and faded drapes, in a polyglot neighborhood full of foreign signs, accents and smells. The rooming house was managed by Mrs. Sun Fung Loo, a Chinese immigrant with several children. Ray, who arrived with no luggage—only a newspaper—took a room on the second floor, facing on the narrow rear yard. The room was small. The cream-colored walls were smudged. There was a sagging mattress on a box spring against one wall, a dark wooden chest, a battered, wobbly dresser with mirror against another wall, two chairs, a dirty green stuffed chair, a radio and shabby white curtains. But the room was a dollar a week cheaper: $9. Ray paid his first week's rent with a Canadian $20 bill, informing Mrs. Loo that he was a nightime hospital worker. The new place was a comedown, to be sure, but Mrs. Loo spoke no English at all and, busy with her children and boarders, was perhaps not so sharp a student of human nature.

Now came a real shock. The next day, Saturday, April 20, the newspapers and broadcast media hummed with the news that Eric Starvo Galt was in reality an escaped convict named James Earl Ray. The publicity was incredible. And there it was: his name, his prison record and his photographs, spread on the front pages. The heat was on now, the greatest heat in the history of crime. Not simply police heat. With a reward of $155,000 on his head, everybody would be looking for Ray. He could trust no one.

The night clerk Luis remembers Ray as "quiet, lonely and shy. He never talked to us—nothing more than good morning and good night," Luis says. "He never made any phone calls or talked to any of the other guests." The day clerk, João, says: "He was a timid guy, always walking around with his face down." A chambermaid, Maria Celeste, says that Ray was a quiet customer and did not make any trouble. "He never said anything to me. Never even rang for room service. He was meticulously neat, but he never took a bath."

There is evidence, however, that Ray spent a lot of time in a rough seaman's bar in the neighborhood, killing time and consorting with prostitutes in the Galo, Bohemia, Ritz. One recalls: "He sat in the corner, alone, drinking beer. But he didn't want to talk." In all these places, Ray ate and drank sparingly and tipped niggardly. One dark-haired girl, a pretty fixture in the Texas Bar, admits to having gone to bed with Ray. "He didn't have much money on him," she says. "He didn't talk about himself He wouldn't even tell me what ship he came from." During the tryst, Ray asked if she had children. She showed him pictures of them—all fatherless—at which point, she recalls, Ray was sad, and almost wept. Frugal in all things, Ray even wheedled her down in price. He paid only 300 escudos—about $10—instead of her usual price of $17 50 for a half hour's dalliance. "But he was a nice guy," she says.

Ray did not "lose" his passport in Lisbon. He had something better going for him. His passport contained a typographical error. The surname "Sneyd" was spelled "Sneya." On May 15, Ray went to the emigration section of the Canadian Embassy and was waited on by Mrs. Manuela Texieira Lopes. A Canadian consular official says: "He came into the consulate and said that his name had been misspelled on the passport—that it should have been Sneyd. He produced a birth certificate in the name of Ramon George Sneyd and asked us to change Sneya to Sneyd." The obliging Canadian officials promptly cancelled the old passport, issued Ray a brand-new passport.

On May 17, Ray checked out of the Hotel Portugal, leaving no tips. At the airport a Mr. Fama of the Lisbon police checked both passports and cleared Ray to exit the country. Ray flew back to London. From May 17 to

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in history had so tight a net been drawn. In Canada, for example, traffic police who stopped motorists for speeding or other minor infractions had orders to check for Ray. Yet week after week dragged by with no sign of him. There were "tips" by the hundreds—hopes raised, taverns and rooming houses staked out—but none paid off. Every lead, every trail, led to a dead end.

On May 9, three days after Ray fled Canada, John Acord, director of the Southern Africa Council in Washington, was leafing through his files, when by "pure accident," he came across the letter Ray (as Galt) had written from Los Angeles on December 28. The name Galt rang a bell. Acord reread the crudely typed letter with its all-cap typeface and misspellings. There it was: Eric S. Galt, asking how he might emigrate to segregationist Rhodesia, and a carbon of the Council's form-letter reply stating the Council did not handle such matters. Acord pulled the letter from the file and sent it over to Kenneth Towsey, the Rhodesian representative in Washington. Towsey looked it over and promptly took it to the FBI.

By now the FBI handwriting experts had amassed considerable documents bearing the signature Eric S. Galt. These included, among others, the application for the bartending school, the registration card in the Rebel Motel, the Alabama motor-vehicle transfer application, from Paisley to Galt, the driver's license application, the card for the safety-deposit box in Birmingham, the envelope provided by Jimmy Garner. All these signatures were the same—had been signed by the same man. The handwriting exactly matched that of James Earl Ray.

The FBI handwriting experts looked over the letter from Eric S. Galt to the Southern Africa Council. It matched previous Eric S. Galt signatures and was unquestionably that of Ray. The return address, 1535 North Serrano Avenue, Los Angeles, was one of the places Ray had lived in Hollywood—not far from the St. Francis Hotel.

More importantly: here was an indication that Ray might have some other refuge in mind than Latin America. There was logic to it. If Ray reached Rhodesia or some other strife-torn segregationist nation, it would be extremely difficult—perhaps impossible—to extradite him. It might be too late. Ray might already be safely there.

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ok—Mrs. Anna Thomas,
tered Ray in a small first-
lpaper. (He later moved
wer wallpaper.) He paid
Mrs. Thomas a five-pound
ıas took an instant dislike

said. "As though he had
He kept the door of his
was here. He complained
aspirin. He never left his
ıt a time. I thought maybe
n. When I brought up his
e to leave it outside the
ɔed. Then, a minute later,
at the door, fully dressed,
tic."
mission to clean his room
made his own bed. This
e might have a girl in the
him out so she could have
l. Says the maid: "Yanks
had a lady in there. But

ɔnly one obsession: flight.
leave London. He spent
ıg plane reservations and
with someone who would
in Africa. His actions do
being helped along by a
mple:

Before leaving the New Earl's Court Hotel, Ray had gone to a street callbox, and, out of the blue, telephoned Ian Colvin, an editorial writer and African authority on the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper. As Mr. Colvin recalls the bizarre conversation, Ray, identifying himself as Ramon Sneyd and speaking in a high sing song voice, perhaps to disguise his southern accent, said: "I'm a Canadian in London for a while. I'm trying to reach my brother who is with 'these people' in Angola." Ray implied that his brother had enlisted with the mercenaries based in Portuguese Angola who were operating against the Congo. Did Colvin know how he, Ray, might get in touch with Major Alistair Wicks, a Britisher who was known to have been a mercenary recruiter? (On May 19, two days after Ray's arrival in London, Major Wicks had been prominently featured in London newspapers—some of the articles by Colvin—where his role in the Congo operation and more recently Biafra was described at some length.)

It was the fourth time Ray had referred to "a brother" in public.

Colvin did not know what to make of this stranger and his urgent request. He was busy meeting a deadline. But Ray pressed, asking for Wicks' telephone number. Partly to get rid of Ray, Colvin said he would try to reach Wicks and pass along Ray's message. But Colvin refused to give Ray Wicks' number.

That was Tuesday. On Thursday, Ray, now at the Pax Hotel, called Colvin a second time. Ray, according to Colvin, was speaking "a torrent of words" and there seemed to be greater desperation in his high-pitched voice. Colvin asked if Ray had heard from Wicks. No, Ray said sheepishly. Perhaps because he, Ray, had changed hotels. "Nobody seems able to help," Ray kept saying.

"What about the Canadian Embassy?" Colvin said.

"Well, they are just no help to me at all," Ray said.

"If your brother is missing, someone will help you," replied Colvin. "Why don't you try the consular section of the British Foreign Office?"

"Well it's not so much my brother's missing," Ray said, shifting ground. "I just haven't heard from him in four months. Fact is, I'd like to join him and be a mercenary myself."

37 Reuters items
(our

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NNNN
ZCZC EPE 552
YY NQR
1601, 2ND ADD LONDON NIGHTLEAD RAY,
X X X HANES.
     REFERRING TO WHAT HE TERMED A PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST
HIS CLIENT, HANES SUGGESTED THAT IF IT CONTINUES THE
QUESTION OF HIS CLIENT'S INNOCENCE OR GUILT OUGHT TO BE
PUT UP FOR A VOTE IN NOVEMBER.
     "IF THERE IS GOING TO BE TRIAL BY THE PRESS, THEN
MAYBE THE PUBLIC OUGHT TO BE GIVEN A VOTE," HE SAID.
     HANES SAID HE CALLED HIS CLIENT RAMON GEORGE SNEYD, THE
NAME UNDER WHICH HE WAS ARRESTED IN BRITAIN. HE ADDED THAT
THIS WAS THE NAME HIS CLIENT GAVE HIM.
     AS AT PREVIOUS NEWS CONFERENCES, HANES REFUSED TO
DISCUSS FEES.
     IN ARGUING FOR PERMISSION TO ACCOMPANY RAY BACK TO THE
STATES, HANES DESCRIBED HIMSELF AND HIS LAW-PARTNER, HIS
SON, AS BEING DESERVING OF AN "IDDY BITTY" BREAK SINCE
THEY BOTH WERE PITTED AGAINST THE RESOURCES AND MIGHT OF THE
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.
 ;; REUTERS JC/HAA
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

114

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] 398 [illegible]
[illegible] 2ND ADD LONDON LEAD RAY:
[illegible] WHICH MAY BE BYLINED BY ARTHUR SPIEGELMAN) X X X SAID.
"HANES GAVE RAY TWO NEW SHIRTS AND A NECKTIE TODAY SO THAT HE
WOULD LOOK SHARP ON THE TRIP BACK."
THE LAWYER SAID HE AND HIS CLIENT HAD IN THEIR FOUR MEETINGS
A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THE CASE ONLY GENERALLY AND ADDED THAT THE
PRESENCE OF GUARDS IN THE INTERVIEW ROOM MADE IT DIFFICULT TO
GET DOWN TO BASIC ISSUES.
[illegible]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

113

[illegible]
[illegible] 300
[illegible]
[illegible] 3RD ADD LONDON LEAD RAY
XXX XPISSUES.

HANES SAID RAY COULD BE PUT ON TRIAL AS EARLY AS OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER. HE ADDED, IN A SARCASTIC REFERENCE TO THE DIFFICULTIES HE HAS HAD IN INTERVIEWING RAY, "I HOPE I GET A CHANCE TO PREPARE A CASE BY THEN."

HANES COMPLAINED YESTERDAY HE WAS NOT ABLE TO SEE HIS CLIENT ALONE--WHICH HE CLAIMED HE WILL BE ABLE TO DO TWICE A DAY IN MEMPHIS, TENN., WHERE RAY IS EXPECTED TO BE HELD AWAITING TRIAL.

THE LAWYER SAID THE AMERICAN EMBASSY PHONED HIM LAST NIGHT AND RELAYED A MESSAGE FROM FRED M. VINSON JR., THE HEAD OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S CRIMINAL DIVISION, SAID REFUSING HIM PERMISSION TO ACCOMPANY RAY BACK.

WHEN HE WENT TO WANDSWORTH PRISON TODAY TO CONFER WITH RAY FOR 35 MINUTES, HE SAID HE TOLD HIM "TO KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT ON THE FLIGHT BACK. HANES ADDED THAT HE AND RAY FEAR THAT JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WILL ATTEMPT TO QUESTION HIM DURING THE RETURN JOURNEY.

THE HOME OFFICE X X X PICKING UP THIRD PARA (448) OF (445).

[illegible] REUTERS RR/BAA

NNNN
NZOZC EPE 387
YY AHD
1528: NIGHTLEAD KING (SCHEDULED):

BY ALEXANDER CHANCELLOR

LONDON, JUNE 8 (REUTERS)--JAMES EARL RAY, ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, WAS ARRESTED TODAY AT LONDON AIRPORT, SCOTLAND YARD ANNOUNCED.

THE 40-YEAR-OLD FUGITIVE, AN ESCAPED CONVICT, WAS APPREHENDED AS HE SOUGHT IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE IN TRANSIT FROM LISBON, PORTUGAL, TO BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, POLICE SAID.

THE ARREST, AT 11:15 A.M. (6:15 A.M. E.D.T.), WAS MADE BY SCOTLAND YARD ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE F.B.I. IN WASHINGTON AND THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE IN OTTAWA.

HE CARRIED A LOADED PISTOL IN HIS HIP POCKET AND POSSESSED TWO FRAUDULENT CANADIAN PASSPORTS UNDER THE ALIAS OF "RAMON GEORGE SNEYD" WHEN HE WAS STOPPED NEAR THE IMMIGRATION DESK AT HEATHROW AIRPORT, POLICE SAID.

RAY, ACCUSED OF THE SNIPER KILLING OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNING CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER APRIL 4 IN MEMPHIS, TENN., WAS TAKEN TO CANNON ROW POLICE STATION, NEAR BUCKINGHAM PALACE, AND PLACED UNDER HEAVY GUARD.

BRITISH AUTHORITIES CHARGED HIM WITH CARRYING A FIREARM WITHOUT A CERTIFICATE AND USING FORGED PASSPORTS. F.B.I. DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER ANNOUNCED IN WASHINGTON THAT THE AGENCY WOULD SEEK HIS EXTRADITION ON THE BASIS OF A FIRST DEGREE MURDER CHARGE ISSUED APRIL 17 IN MEMPHIS.

11 (MORE) JO/AB

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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Reuters 8 June 68

ZCZC EPE 388
YY AHD
1532: 1ST ADD LONDON NIGHTLEAD KING:
X X X MEMPHIS.

RAY, WHO STANDS NEARLY SIX FEET TALL, WAS WEARING EYE GLASSES, A LIGHT-COLORED RAINCOAT, A SPORTS JACKET AND GREY PANTS WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED.

HE WAS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR IN BOW STREET MAGISTRATE S COURT MONDAY TO FACE THE BRITISH CHARGES, AUTHORITIES SAID.

THE ARREST ENDED ONE OF THE MOST EXTENSIVE MANHUNTS IN HISTORY--A SEARCH COVERING ALL 50 STATES, CANADA, MEXICO, PORTUGAL, BRITAIN AND OTHER NATIONS.

THE FIRST BREAK IN THE SEARCH SINCE RAY WAS IDENTIFIED AS THE KILLER BY THE F.B.I. 13 DAYS AFTER KING WAS FATALLY SHOT BY A SNIPER S BULLET WHILE STANDING ON A MEMPHIS MOTEL BALCONY CAME SEVERAL DAYS AGO IN OTTAWA, AUTHORITIES SAID.

SHORTLY AFTER THE F.B.I. IDENTIFIED RAY AS KING S KILLER, THE CANADIAN MOUNTIES BEGAN PROBING THE FILES OF THE CANADIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT IN OTTAWA, EXAMINING UP TO 400,000 PHOTOGRAPHS.

AFTER SEVERAL DAYS, THEY DISCOVERED A PHOTO OF A MAN WHO APPEARED TO BE RAY--A SMALL SCAR IN THE CENTER OF HIS FOREHEAD--FILED WITH DOCUMENTS FOR A PASSPORT ISSUED APRIL 24, THREE WEEKS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION, IN OTTAWA IN THE NAME OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD.

A SPOKESMAN SAID THE CANADIAN AUTHORITIES DISCOVERED SEVERAL DAYS AGO THAT THE PASSPORT APPLICATION--PRESENTED BY MAIL--AND OTHER DOCUMENTS WERE FRAUDULENT.

$& (MORE) JC/AG

NNNN
ZCZC EPE 389
YY AHD

1351 2ND ADD LONDON NIGHTLEAD KING
X X X FRAUDULENT.

OTTAWA AUTHORITIES APPARENTLY WERE UNAWARE THAT A SECOND CANADIAN PASSPORT--ALSO ISSUED IN THE NAME OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD--WAS ISSUED MAY 16 BY THE CANADIAN EMBASSY IN LISBON.

TRACING RAY S TRAVELS IN CANADA, CANADIAN AUTHORITIES LEARNED THAT HE WAS HEADING FOR BRITAIN AND POSSIBLY ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE AND TIPPED OFF THE F.B.I. AND SCOTLAND YARD, AUTHORITIES SAID.

RAY, WHO THE F.B.I. SAID USED THE NAME OF ERIC STARVO GALT AND OTHER ALIASES, HAS A LONG CRIMINAL RECORD. HE WAS FIRST CONVICTED OF VURGLARY IN LOS ANGELES IN 1949, OT ROBBERY IN CHICAGO IN 1952, AND OF FORGERY IN MISSOURI IN 1955. HIS LAST CONVICTION WAS IN 1960.

RAY, BORN IN ALTON, ILL., HID IN A BIG WOODEN BREAD BOX TO ESCAPE FROM THE MISSOURI PRISON BAKERY IN JEFFERSON CITY LAST YEAR WHILE SERVING A 20-YEAR TERM FOR ARMED ROBBERY AND CAR THEFT.

WARDEN HAROLD SWENSON DESCRIBED RAY AS "EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, COLD-BLOODED AND RUTHLESS."

HE IS ACCUSED OF FIRING A BULLET FROM A ROOMING HOUSE WINDOW ABOUT 200 FEET FROM THE LORRAINE MOTEL BALCONY IN MEMPHIS, FATALLY WOUNDING AMERICA S BEST-KNOWN CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER IN THE NECK APRIL 4.

THIRTY-NINE-YEAR-OLD MARTIN LUTHER KING DIED AN HOUR LATER, AND HIS ASSASSINATION SENT A WAVE OF NEGRO RIOTING ACROSS THE NATION WHICH KILLED ABOUT 40 PERSONS AND CAUSED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN PROPERTY DAMAGE.

REUTERS JC/AG

Reuter

NNNN
ZCZC CPE 420
YY NOR
1924: KING--RETURN:

WASHINGTON, JUNE, 8 (REUTERS)--A TOP JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL PREPARED TO FLY TO LONDON TONIGHT TO SECURE THE "EXPEDITIOUS RETURN" TO THE UNITED STATES OF JAMES EARL RAY, ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER MARTIN LUTHER KING.

A BRIEF DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED SAID ASSISTANT ATTORNEY-GENERAL FRED M. VINSON, JR., HEAD OF THE CRIMINAL DIVISION, WOULD LEAVE TONIGHT TO "REVIEW ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES THE CUSTODY, PROTECTION AND EXPEDITIOUS RETURN TO THIS COUNTRY OF JAMES EARL RAY."

RAY, A 40-YEAR OLD ESCAPED CONVICT, WAS SEIZED BY SCOTLAND YARD DETECTIVES AT LONDON AIRPORT THIS MORNING.

RAY, ACCUSED IN BRITAIN OF USING A FRAUDULENT PASSPORT AND CARRYING A CONCEALED WEAPON, IS AT PRESENT HELD AT CANNON ROW POLICE STATION AND IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR IN COURT ON MONDAY.

THE U.S. IS SEEKING HIS EXTRADITION FOLLOWING A GRAND JURY INDICTMENT CHARGING HIM WITH THE MURDER OF KING IN MEMPHIS, TENN., APRIL 4.

:: REUTERS LS/DW

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 10 AUG 1976

Reuters 8 June 68

NNNN

ZCZC LOB 295
YY CCC EUR CPW EAS NOR
1155: KING-OFFICIAL:

LONDON, JUNE 9, REUTER - A TOP U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL FLEW HERE TODAY TO SECURE THE EXTRADITION OF A 40-YEAR-OLD MAN SAID TO BE THE CHIEF SUSPECT IN THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FRED M. VINSON WAS MET BY POLICE AT LONDON AIRPORT--SCENE OF YESTERDAY'S ARREST OF AN ARMED MAN IDENTIFIED IN WASHINGTON AS JAMES EARL RAY.

POLICE SWOOPED ON THE MAN--TRAVELLING UNDER THE NAME OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD--AS HE WAS ABOUT TO BOARD A PLANE FOR BRUSSELS AND HELD HIM ON FORGED PASSPORT AND FIREARMS CHARGES.

MR. VINSON, HEAD OF THE CRIMINAL DIVISION OF THE U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, TOLD NEWSMEN ON ARRIVAL HE WAS HERE TO "EXPEDITE THE EXTRADITION OF MR. RAY."

;; MORE LS/WL 1201

NNNN

ZCZC LOB 296
YY CCC EUR CPW EAS NOR
1206: KING-OFFICIAL 2 LONDON:

ASKED REACTION IN AMERICA TO THE CAPTURE, MR. VINSON SAID: "PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES ARE DELIGHTED HE HAS BEEN APPREHENDED. WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM FOR A LONG TIME".

HE LEFT THE AIRPORT THROUGH A SIDE DOOR TO A CAR WAITING TO RUSH HIM TO THE U.S. EMBASSY FOR DISCUSSION WITH SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS.

NEITHER EMBASSY NOR POLICE SPOKESMEN WOULD COMMENT TODAY ON WHEN THE EXTRADITION MACHINERY WOULD BE SET IN MOTION.

;; MORE LS/WL 1212

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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Reuters 9 June 68

NNNN

ZCZC LOB 297
YY CCC EUR CPW EAS NOR
1227: KING--OFFICIAL 3 LONDON:

RAY--OR SNEYD--WILL APPEAR IN COURT IN LONDON TOMORROW ON CHARGES OF POSSESSING A FORGED PASSPORT AND A FIREARM WITHOUT A CERTIFICATE.

A HOME OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID, IN THEEVENT OF AN EXTRADITION, THE UNITED STATES WOULD APPLY TO A MAGISTRATE HERE FOR AN EXTRADITION ORDER TO BE MADE AGAINST THE SUSPECT.

IF HE DECIDES ON THE EVIDENCE SUBMITTED THERE IS A PRIMA FACIE CASE AGAINST THE MAN, THE MAGISTRATE WILL ORDER HIM TO BE HANDED OVER TO U.S. POLICE OFFICERS WHO WILL ESCORT HIM BACK TO AMERICA.

:: MORE LS/WL 1236

TMNR

ZCZC LO3 298
YY CCC EUR CPW EAS NOR
1253: KING-OFFICIAL 4 LONDON:

THE ARREST FOLLOWS A WORLD-WIDE HUNT FOR THE KILLER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER, CUT DOWN BY A SNIPER IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, LAST APRIL 4.

POLICE HERE TODAY REMAINED TIGHT-LIPPED ON DETAILS OF THE PURSUIT CONFINING THEMSELVES TO SAYING THEY ACTED IN COOPERATION WITH THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) AND CANADIAN POLICE.

THE HUNT--SPARKED 31 DAYS AGO BY A MEMPHIS GRAND JURY'S MURDER INDICTMENT AGAINST RAY--HAD COVERED CANADA, MEXICO, PORTUGAL, AUSTRALIA, AND BRITAIN.

THE SUSPECT SPENT THE NIGHT AT CANNON ROW POLICE STATION AND POLICE SEALED OFF ACCESS ROADS TO WARD OFF SIGHTSEERS HOPING TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON INSIDE.

=REUTER LS/WL 1300

NNNN
ZCZC EPE 494
YY AHD
1309: RAY (SCHEDULED):

BY ALEXANDER CHANCELLOR

LONDON, JUNE 9 (REUTERS)-ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL FRED M. VINSON ARRIVED HERE TODAY "TO EXPEDITE THE EXTRADITION" OF THE ALLEGED ASSASSIN OF CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

THE MAN--IDENTIFIED BY THE F.B.I. IN WASHINGTON AS JAMES EARL RAY, 40--WAS ARRESTED HERE YESTERDAY AS HE ARRIVED AT LONDON AIRPORT EN ROUTE FROM LISBON TO BRUSSELS.

HE WAS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR IN COURT TOMORROW--UNDER THE NAME OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD--ON CHARGES OF POSSESSING A FORGED PASSPORT AND CARRYING A FIREARM WITHOUT A CERTIFICATE.

U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS WERE EXPECTED TO SEEK A COURT HEARING TO HAVE HIM EXTRADITED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

VINSON, HEAD OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S CRIMINAL DIVISION, LATER MET WITH DETECTIVE CHIEF SUPT. THOMAS BUTLER OF SCOTLAND YARD, WHO ORGANIZED RAY'S ARREST.

KING WAS KILLED BY A SNIPER'S BULLET IN MEMPHIS, TENN., APRIL 4.

;; (MORE) CD/HV

NNNN
ZCZC EPE 495
YY AHD
1313: 1ST ADD LONDON RAY X X X APRIL 4:

SCOTLAND YARD POLICE OFFICERS ARRESTED RAY--WHO WAS EARING DARK GLASSES AND CARRYING A GUN--AFTER RECEIVING TIPS FROM THE F.B.I. AND THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE (R.C.M.P.).

ON ARRIVAL RON WASHINGTON VINSON TOLD REPORTERS, "I AM HERE TO EXPEDITE THE EXTRADITION OF RAY."

BEFORE RAY CAN BE EXTRADITED, A MAGISTRATE MUST DECIDE IF A CASE EXISTS AGAINST HIM ON CHARGES BROUGHT BY U.S. OFFICIALS. IF THE MAGISTRATES DO DECIDE A CASE EXISTS, THEY WILL PROBABLY COMMIT HIM TO PRISON UNTIL THE HOME OFFICE (INTERIOR MINISTRY) ISSUES AN ORDER FOR HIM TO BE HANDED OVER.

WITH APPEALS, LEGAL EXPERTS SAID THE PROCEDURE COULD TAKE THREE WEEKS.

(IN LISBON, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PORTUGUESE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY POLICE (P.I.D.E.) SAID THEY HAD NO INDICATION RAY WAS IN PORTUGAL SATURDAY.

(HOWEVER, HE SAID THEY HAD PROOF RAY--UNDER THE NAME OF SNEYD--WAS THERE MAY 8 AND LEFT FOR LONDON MAY 17. DURING THAT PERIOD HE STAYED AT A LISBON HOTEL, WHICH THE SPOKESMAN WOULD NOT NAME.

(HE SAID P.I.D.E. WAS CONTACTED ABOUT RAY BY THE F.B.I. AFTER HE HAD LEFT THE COUNTRY.)

;; (MORE) CD/HV

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 JUN 1976

Reuters 9 June 68

NNNN
ZCZC EPF 496
YY AHD
(315: 2ND ADD LONDON RAY X X X COUNTRY):

THE HUNT FOR RAY WAS THE BIGGEST IN THE HISTORY OF THE F.B.I. MORE THAN 6,000 POLICE THROUGHOUT THE 50 STATES WERE INVOLVED.

IT STARTED 31 DAYS AGO AFTER A MEMPHIS GRAND JURY RETURNED A FIRST-DEGREE MURDER INDICTMENT AGAINST HIM.

THE R.C.M.P. CHECKED UP TO 400,000 PASSPORT APPLICATIONS BEFORE FINDING A PICTURE RESEMBLING PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY.

THEY DISCOVERED TWO CANADIAN PASSPORTS WERE ISSUED TO HIM UNDER THE NAME OF SNEYD IN OTTAWA APRIL 25 AND IN LISBON MAY 16.

THE CANADIAN EMBASSY IN LISBON CONFIRMED IT ISSUED A NEW PASSPORT LAST MONTH TO A MAN OF THAT NAME, BUT SAID PICTURES PRODUCED BY SNEYD BORE NO RESEMBLANCE TO PUBLISHED PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY.

SNEYD APPLIED FOR THE NEW PASSPORT BECAUSE HE CLAIMED HIS NAME WAS SPELT INCORRECTLY AS "SNEYA" IN THE PASSPORT ISSUED TO HIM IN OTTAWA.

1; REUTERS CD/HV

SDN
ZZC EPE519
YY NOR
1508 : LEAD RAY:

BY ALEXANDER CHANCELLOR:

LONDON, JUNE 9 (REUTERS) -- ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL FRED M. VINSON TODAY QUESTIONED THE ALLEGED ASSASSIN OF/CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS,REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

BUT HE WOULD MAKE NO COMMENT ON THE INTERVIEW, HELD AT A LONDON POLICE STATION.

THE SUSPECTED KILLER -- IDENTIFIED BY THE F.B.I. IN WASHINGTON AS JAMES EARL RAY, 40 -- WAS ARRESTED HERE YESTERDAY AS HE ARRIVED AT LONDON AIRPORT EN ROUTE FROM LISBON, PORTUGAL, TO BRUSSELS, BELGIUM.

ASKED IF HE HOPED TO TAKE RAY WITH HIM ON HIS RETURN TO THE U.S., VINSON TOLD REPORTERS OUTSIDE THE U.S. EMBASSY HERE, "THAT IS VERY DOUBTFUL."

RAY WAS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR IN COURT MONDAY -- UNDER THE NAME OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD -- ON CHARGES OF POSSESSING A FORGED PASSPORT AND CARRYING A FIREARM WITHOUT A CERTIFICATE.

U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS X X X X . PICKING UP 4TH PARA OF (A94)

REUTERS JUNE 9 CD/.JH.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date: 10 AUG 1976

Reuters 9 June 68

NNNN
ZSZC EPE 524
YY AHD
1607: RAY--PORTUGUESE;

LISBON, PORTUGAL, JUNE 9 (REUTERS)--JAMES EARL RAY, THE SUSPECTED ASSASSIN OF REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, SPENT NINE DAYS AT A THIRD CLASS HOTEL HERE LAST MONTH LIVING IN ALMOST COMPLETE ISOLATION.

HE RECEIVED NO CALLERS AND MADE NO TELEPHONE CALLS, GENTIL LUIS, A PORTER AT THE HOTEL PORTUGAL NEAR LISBON'S CENTRAL "ROSSIO" SQUARE, TOLD REPORTERS TODAY.

RAY--ARRESTED IN LONDON SATURDAY UNDER THE NAME OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD--REGISTERED AT THE HOTEL MAY 8 AND LEFT MAY 17.

HE NEVER HAD A MEAL OR DRINK IN HIS 55 ESCUDOS (1.92 DOLLAR) A NIGHT SINGLE ROOM AND ON THE RARE TIMES HE SPOKE TO THE HOTEL STAFF HE USED ENGLISH OR BROKEN SPANISH, GENTIL SAID.

HE DRESSED LIKE A MIDDLE-CLASS AMERICAN TOURIST, WORE DARK GLASSES AND WAS A "BAD TIPPER," HE ADDED.

"ON MAY 17 SNEYD CALLED FOR HIS BILL, PAID IT, GAVE US NO TIPS AND LEFT WITHOUT SAYING WHERE HE WAS HEADING," GENTIL SAID.

EARLIER, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PORTUGUESE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY POLICE (P.I.D.E.) CONFIRMED RAY WAS HERE MAY 8-17 BUT SAID THEY WERE TOLD BY THE F.B.I. TO LOOK FOR HIM UNDER THE NAME SNEYD AFTER MAY 17.

11 (MORE) CD/AG

NNNN
ZOZC EPE 525
YY AHD
1611: 2ND ADD LISBON RAY--PORTUGUESE:
X X X TIME.

THE DISSIMILARITY IN PHOTOGRAPHS SNEYD PRODUCED FOR THE PASSPORT AND THOSE OF RAY CARRIED IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS INDICATE HE MAY HAVE SOUGHT TO CHANGE PASSPORTS TO SUBSTITUTE PICTURES.

11 REUTERS CD/AG

19 AUG 1970

Date Reuters 9 June 68

Reuters

NNNN
707C EPE 526
YY AID
161211 1ST ADD LISBON RAY--PORTUGUESE:
X X X MAY 17.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID P.I.D.E. HAD NO INFORMATION SNEYD WAS HERE SATURDAY, AND AIRLINE OFFICIALS SAID THE FLIGHT TO BRUSSELS CARRIED NO MENTION OF THE NAME SNEYD ON ITS PASSENGER LIST.

THE OFFICIALS SAID IF HE TRAVELED FROM HERE HE EITHER USED AN ASSUMED NAME OR WAS ON TRANSIT FROM ANOTHER AIRPORT.

(RAY WAS ARRESTED AT LONDON AIRPORT EN ROUTE FROM LISBON TO BRUSSELS, THE F.B.I. SAID IN WASHINGTON).

SNEYD WAS GIVEN A NEW PASSPORT HERE MAY 16, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CANADIAN EMBASSY IN LISBON CONFIRMED. BUT, HE SAID, THE PICTURE ON THE PASSPORT BORE NO LIKENESS TO THAT OF RAY.

SNEYD REQUESTED A NEW PASSPORT AFTER COMPLAINING AN EARLIER ONE ISSUED IN OTTAWA SPELLED HIS NAME "SNEYA."

THE EMBASSY TOLD HIM THE ORIGINAL PASSPORT WOULD HAVE TO BE CANCELLED, BUT ONLY ISSUED HIM WITH A NEW ONE AFTER HE PRODUCED A BIRTH CERTIFICATE PROVING HIS IDENTITY, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE CANCELLED PASSPORT WAS HANDED TO SNEYD AT THE SAME TIME.

11 (MORE) CFD/AG

Reuters 17 May 68

NNNN

ZCZC EPB 743
YY NOR WDD EAS
1052: KING--EMBASSY:

LISBON, JUNE 9, REUTER - THE CANADIAN EMBASSY HERE CONFIRMED TODAY THAT ON MAY 16 THEY ISSUED A NEW PASSPORT TO A MAN NAMED RAMON GEORGE SNEYD, BUT SAID THE PICTURE ON THE PASSPORT BORE NO LIKENESS TO THAT OF JAMES EARL RAY, CHIEF SUSPECT IN THE KILLING OF AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER MARTIN LUTHER KING.

THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) SAID IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY THAT A RAMON GEORGE SNEYD ARRESTED AT LONDON AIRPORT WAS RAY, WHO HAD TWO FALSE CANADIANS PASSPORTS--ONE ISSUED IN LISBON.

A WORLD-WIDE MANHUNT FOR RAY, 40, HAD BEEN UNDER WAY SINCE THE MURDER OF DR. KING AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, ON APRIL 4.

:: MORE DH/AG 1101

NNNN
ZCZC EPB 744
YY NOR WDD EAS
1054: KING--EMBASSY 2 LISBON:

- THE EMBASSY SPOKESMAN HERE SAID SNEYD CALLED AT THE EMBASSY AND REQUESTED THAT THE SPELLING OF HIS NAME BE CORRECTED IN HIS PASSPORT.

IT HAD BEEN WRITTEN IN THE PASSPORT AS "SNEYA," HE SAID.

THE EMBASSY TOLD HIM THE ORIGINAL PASSPORT ~~WOULD~~ HAVE TO BE CANCELLED, BUT ONLY ISSUED HIM WITH A NEW ONE AFTER HE HAD PRODUCED A BIRTH CERTIFICATE PROVING HIS IDENTITY. THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE CANCELLED PASSPORT WAS HANDED TO SNEYD AT THE SAME TIME.

HE SAID THAT PICTURES PRODUCED BY SNEYD FOR HIS PASSPORT DID NOT AT ALL RESEMBLE PICTURES OF JAMES EARL RAY PUBLISHED IN VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS.

IN OTTAWA YESTERDAY ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE SAID THAT A PASSPORT HAD BEEN ISSUED TO SNEYD ON APRIL 25 BUT THEY WERE UNAWARE THAT A SECOND ONE HAD BEEN ISSUED IN LISBON.

THEY QUICKLY REALISED THE OTTAWA APPLICATION IN THE NAME OF SNEYD WAS FRAUDULENT AND TIPPED OFF THE FBI AND BRITAIN S SCOTLAND YARD, THE CANADIAN POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

:: REUTER DH/AG 1104

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1978

Reuters 9 June 68

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ZCZC FPE 679
YY AHD
1047: RAY-EXTRADITION:

LONDON, JUNE 10-(REUTERS)- THE CASE OF JAMES EARLY RAY--ACCUSED OF KILLING REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING- COULD POSE A LEGAL HEADACHE FOR BRITISH AUTORITIES.

RAY, ARRESTED AT LONDON AIRPORT WHILE IN TRANSIT SATURDAY, WAS ORDERED HELD IN CUSTODY UNTIL JUNE 18 TODAY ON CHARGES OF POSSESSING A PISTOL WITHOUT A LICENSE AND A FORGED CANADIAN PASSPORT.

IF U.S. AUTHORITIES APPLY FOR EXTRADITION, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH A PRIMA FACIE CASE ON WHATEVER CHARGE WAS BROUGHT. AT PRESENT THERE ARE TWO COUNTS OUTSTANDING: A TENNESSEE MURDER INDICTMENT AND A FEDERAL CHARGE OF CONSPIRING TO DEPRIVE KING OF HIS CIVIL RIGHTS.

IF AN EXTRADITION WRIT IS GRANTED, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO HOLD RAY IN BRITAIN FOR A FURTHER 15 DAYS TO ALLOW FOR ANN APPEAL. SUCH AN APPEAL USUALLY TAKES THE FORM OF A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS WHICH IS A REQUIREMENT TO THE DETAINING AUTHORITY TO SHOW CAUSE WHY A PRISONER SHOULD NOT BE FREED.

ALTERNATIVELY BRITISH AUTHORITIES COULD ORDER RAY DEPORTED. IN THE CASE OF A PERSON REFUSED ADMISSION TO THIS COUNTRY HE IS NORMALLY RETURNED TO THE SEA OR AIR CARRIER WHO BROUGHT HIM HERE.

IF THE SUBJECT HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO LAND IN BRITAIN, AS RAY APPARENTLY WAS, HE IS NORMALLY DEPORTED TO HIS PLACE OF ORIGIN. IN RAY S CASE, IF IT WERE PROVED THAT HE HAD A FORGED PASSPORT, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH HIS PLACE OF ORIGIN.

:: REUTERS DL/GS

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

Reuters 10 June 68

ZCZC EPE 706

1319: NIGHTLEAD RAY (SCHEDULED):

BY PATRICK MASSEY

LONDON, JUNE 10 (REUTERS)- THE ALLEGED ASSASSIN OF CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING APPEARED IN COURT TODAY FOR TWO MINUTES -- THEN WAS WHISKED OFF TO A PRISON IN ONE OF LONDON S LARGEST NEGRO DISTRICTS.

TOP SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WERE MOUNTED FOR THE APPEARANCE OF THE MAN--JAMES EARL RAY, ALIAS ERIC STARVO GALT, ALIAS RAMON GEORGE SNEYD, THE NAME UNDER WHICH HE WAS CHARGED. HE WAS ORDERED TO BE HELD IN CUSTODY FOR ANOTHER HEARING JUNE 18.

NEWSMEN AND SPECTATORS WERE SEARCHED FOR WEAPONS BY POLICE BEFORE THEY WERE ALLOWED INTO BOW STREET MAGISTRATES COURT OPPOSITE THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE IN THE BUSTLING COVENT GARDEN FRUIT MARKET.

MANY OF THE 50 SPECTATORS WERE COLORED.

RAY--ARRESTED SATURDAY AT LONDON AIRPORT EN ROUTE FROM LISBON, PORTUGAL, TO BRUSSELS, BELGIUM-- WAS CHARGED WITH ILLEGALLY POSSESSING A 38-CALIBER LIBERTY CHIEF REVOLVER AND FIVE ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION, AND WITH HOLDING A FORGED PASSPORT.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE Reuters 10 June 68

Date 19 AUG 1976

[illegible]
[illegible] PE 707
[illegible]
321: URGENT RAY--EXTRADITION:

WASHINGTON, JUNE 10 (REUTERS)--THE UNITED STATES WILL MAKE A FORMAL EXTRADITION REQUEST TO BRITAIN IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS FOR THE RETURN OF JAMES EARLY RAY, ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

(MORE) DW/3N

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

Reuters 10 June

BUMK
ZEZC EPE 713
DU AHD
1331; 1ST ADD WASHINGTON RAY-EXTRADITION:
X X X TODAY.

STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT J. MCCLOSKEY SAID HE EXPECTED THE U.S. EMBASSY IN LONDON WOULD REQUEST EXTRADITION ON CHARGES OF MURDER AND ARMED ROBBERY.

RAY, A 40-YEAR-OLD ESCAPED CONVICT, WAS ARRESTED AT LONDON AIRPORT LAST SATURDAY AND IS AT PRESENT BEING HELD IN BRITAIN ON CHARGES OF POSSESSING A FORGED CANADIAN PASSPORT AND CARRYING A CONCEALED WEAPON WITHOUT A PERMIT.

-(MORE) DW/23

Reuters

ZCZC EPE 715
UI AID
1540: 2ND ADD WASHINGTON RAY--EXTRADITION:
(713) X X X PETTIT

MCCLOSKEY SAID EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS WOULD BE INITIATED UNDER A 1951 TREATY BETWEEN THE U.S. AND BRITAIN. THIS COVERS EXTRADITION IN CASES OF MURDER AND ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE.

HE SAID EXTRADITION WOULD BE GRANTED BY BRITAIN AFTER PROBABLE CAUSE HAS BEEN SHOWN THAT THE ACCUSED ACTUALLY COMMITTED THE CRIMES FOR WHICH EXTRADITION WAS BEING SOUGHT.

RAY HAS BEEN INDICTED IN THE [illegible] ON A CHARGE OF MURDERING KING IN MEMPHIS, TENN., ON APRIL 4 AND IS ALSO SOUGHT AS AN ESCAPEE FROM MISSOURI STATE PRISON, WHERE HE WAS SERVING A 20-YEAR-SENTENCE FOR ARMED ROBBERY.

MCCLOSKEY SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG IT MIGHT TAKE TO COMPLETE EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS. HE SAID THE U.S. EMBASSY IN LONDON WOULD PROVIDE LEGAL COUNSEL FOR RAY, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW IF EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAD YET SEEN HIM.

ONCE THE EXTRADITION REQUEST WAS GRANTED, AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AGENTS WOULD RETURN RAY TO THE UNITED STATES.

REUTERS DP/GS

Reuters

ZNNR
GZCZC EPE775
YY AHD
1553: RAY-MINUTES:

LONDON, JUNE 10 (REUTERS)--SCOTLAND YARD ORDERED JAMES EARL RAY HELD SATURDAY AT HEATHROW AIRPORT JUST FOUR MINUTES BEFORE HIS PLANE WAS TO TAKEOFF FOR BRUSSELS, POLICE SOURCES SAID TODAY.

SPECIAL BRANCH POLICEMEN AT THE AIRPORT WERE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A MAN USING A CANADIAN PASSPORT MADE OUT TO RAYMOND GEORGE SNEYD, THE NAME RAY ALLEGEDLY USED TO GET INTO BRITAIN.

WHEN THEY FOUND THE MAN THEY TELEPHONED SCOTLAND YARD, WHICH ORDERED THE MAN BE HELD.

THE SOURCES SAID THAT SCOTLAND YARD ORDERED RAY HELD JUST FOUR MINUTES BEFORE HIS PLANE WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKEOFF.

:: REUTERS CD/MJL

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

Reuters 10 June 68

NNNN
ZCZC EPE 834
YY NOR
0400: RAY (SCHEDULED)
BY LEONARD SANTORELLI
LONDON, JUNE 11 (REUTERS)--U.S. OFFICIALS TODAY PREPARED TO
SEEK THE EXTRADITION OF REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING S ALLEGED KILLER--A
COMPLEX LEGAL PROCESS THAT MAY TAKE WEEKS OR EVEN MONTHS.
A COURT HERE YESTERDAY GRANTED AMERICAN AUTHORITIES A
PROVISIONAL WARRANT FOR THE ARREST OF JAMES EARL RAY ON A CHARGE
OF MURDER.
THE AMERICAN MOVE WAS BELIEVED TO BE A SAFETY PRECAUTION
IN CASE RAY WAS FREED ON BAIL OR A LEGAL TECHNICALITY DURING HIS
APPEARANCE IN COURT YESTERDAY ON PASSPORT AND FIREARMS CHARGES.
RAY, 40, WAS ARRESTED UNDER THE NAME OF RAMOND GEORGE SNEYD ON
THE LESSER CHARGES AS HE WAS ABOUT TO BOARD A BRUSSELS-BOUND PLANE
HERE FOLLOWING A WORLD-HUNT FOR THE KILLER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS
LEADER.
;; (MORE) JF/EB

NNNN
ZCZC EPE 835
YY NOR
0403: 1ST ADD LONDON RAY XXX LEADER:
AT THE HEARING YESTERDAY RAY WAS ORDERED HELD UNTIL JUNE 18
ON CHARGES OF POSSESSING A FALSE PASSPORT AND A FIREARM AND
AMMUNITION WITHOUT A CERTIFICATE.
HE WAS THEN WHISKED OFF TO A PRISON UNDER TIGHT SECURITY
PRECAUTIONS. IF HE HAD BEEN GRANTED BAIL THE MURDER WARRANT MEANT
HE COULD HAVE BEEN RE-ARRESTED AS HE LEFT THE COURT.
THE NEXT MOVE WILL BE FOR U.S. OFFICIALS TO SUBMIT A REQUEST
FOR THE EXTRADITION OF RAY, THE F.B.I. S CHIEF SUSPECT IN THE
SLAYING OF KING IN MEMPHISS, TENN., TWO MONTHS AGO.
THE REQUEST WOULD BE CHANNELLED THROUGH THE BRITISH FOREIGN
OFFICE TO THE HOME OFFICE (INTERIOR MINISTRY) AND MUST SATISFY
BRITISH OFFICIALS THAT THE CASE FALLS WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE BRITISH
EXTRADITION TREATY WITH THE U.S.
;; (MORE) JF/EB

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

Reuters 11 June 68

NNNN
ZCZC EPE 336
YY NOR
0197: 2ND ADD LONDON RAY X X X U.S.:

IF IT DOES, A COURT CAN GO AHEAD WITH AN EXTRADITION HEARING
TO DECIDE WHETHER THE ACCUSED MAN SHOULD BE SURRENDERED TO U.S.
OFFICIALS.

SHOULD AN EXTRADITION ORDER BE GRANTED, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY
TO HOLD RAY FOR ANOTHER 15 DAYS HERE TO GIVE HIM TIME FOR AN
APPEAL.

THE POSITION COULD BE FURTHER ENTANGLED IF BRITISH POLICE
DECIDE TO MAKE RAY STAND TRIAL ON THE PASSPORT AND FIREARMS CHARGES.

RAY FACES TWO CHARGES IN THE U.S.--A TENNESSEE WARRANT CHARGING
HIM WITH KING S MURDER AND A FEDERAL CHARGE OF CONSPIRING TO
DEPRIVE THE NEGRO LEADER OF HIS CIVIL RIGHTS.

MEANWHILE, RAY IS INSTALLED IN A PRISON CELL WHERE TWO OFFICERS
KEEP AN AROUND-THE-CLOCK WATCH ON HIM.

A LIGHT BULB GLARES ALL NIGHT AND THE OFFICERS ACCOMPANY RAY
WHENEVER HE LEAVES THE CELL.

LATER THIS WEEK HE WILL BE SHIFTED TO ANOTHER PRISON WHERE EVEN
MORE STRINGENT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS CAN BE TAKEN.

REUTERS JF/ED

NNNN

NNNN
ZCZC EPE 836
YY NOR
0407: 2ND ADD LONDON RAY X X X U.S.:
  IF IT DOES, A COURT CAN GO AHEAD WITH AN EXTRADITION HEARING
TO DECIDE WHETHER THE ACCUSED MAN SHOULD BE SURRENDERED TO U.S.
OFFICIALS.
  SHOULD AN EXTRADITION ORDER BE GRANTED, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY
TO HOLD RAY FOR ANOTHER 15 DAYS HERE TO GIVE HIM TIME FOR AN
APPEAL.
  THE POSITION COULD BE FURTHER ENTANGLED IF BRITISH POLICE
DECIDE TO MAKE RAY STAND TRIAL ON THE PASSPORT AND FIREARMS CHARGES.
  RAY FACES TWO CHARGES IN THE U.S.--A TENNESSEE WARRANT CHARGING
HIM WITH KING'S MURDER AND A FEDERAL CHARGE OF CONSPIRING TO
DEPRIVE THE NEGRO LEADER OF HIS CIVIL RIGHTS.
  MEANWHILE, RAY IS INSTALLED IN A PRISON CELL WHERE TWO OFFICERS
KEEP AN AROUND-THE-CLOCK WATCH ON HIM.
  A LIGHT BULB GLARES ALL NIGHT AND THE OFFICERS ACCOMPANY RAY
WHENEVER HE LEAVES THE CELL.
  LATER THIS WEEK HE WILL BE SHIFTED TO ANOTHER PRISON WHERE EVEN
MORE STRINGENT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS CAN BE TAKEN.
TT REUTERS JF/ED

NNNN
ZCZC EPH 990
Y NOI
14100 2ND ADD LONDON NIGHTLEAD RAY:
X X X U.S.
IF THEY DETERMINE IT DOES, - (0745 38)) 923, 6-13 99 33:893
IF RAY SHOULD BE SURRENDERED TO U.S. AUTHORITIES. IT AN
EXTRADITION ORDER IS THEN GRANTED, RAY HAS 15 DAYS IN WHICH TO
APPEAL.
THE SITUATION, HOWEVER, COULD BE FURTHER COMPLICATED IF
BRITISH AUTHORITIES DECIDE TO GO AHEAD WITH THE CHARGES
LEVELLED AGAINST RAY AFTER HIS ARREST.
15 REUTERS CO/EJH

Reute

[illegible]
ZCZC EPZ 155
YT AHD
1210: RAY:
LONDON, JUNE 12 (REUTERS)--THE AMERICAN EMBASSY TODAY TURNED
OVER A FILE ON JAMES EARL RAY TO THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE AS A
PRELIMINARY TO EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE ACCUSED
ASSASIN OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING.
BRITISH OFFICIALS WERE STUDYING THE INCH-THICK FILE THIS
AFTERNOON TO ENSURE THE CASE COMPLIED WITH TERMS OF THE ANGLO-
AMERICAN EXTRADITION TREATY.
ONCE SATISFIED, THE FOREIGN OFFICE WILL PASS IT ON TO THE
HOME OFFICE (INTERIOR MINISTRY). THE HOME OFFICE THEN MUST CHECK
THAT LEGAL REQUIREMENTS ARE MET BEFORE PASSING THE FILE TO
THE MAGISTRATE AT LONDON S BOW STREET COURT FOR A PRELIMINARY
HEARING.
AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS WERE HOPEFUL A PRELIMINARY HEARING
MIGHT BE HELD LATE THIS WEEK OR EARLY NEXT WEKEK.
JT (MORE) RO/HAA

[illegible]
ZCZC EPZ 165
YT AHD
1213: 1ST ADD LONDON RAY:
X X X NEXT.
RAY WAS ARRESTED AT LONDON AIRPORT SATURDAY AS HE WAS
ABOUT TO BOARD A PLANE FOR BRUSSELS. MONDAY HE WAS BROUGHT
BEFORE THE BOW STREET COURT UNDER THE NAME OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD.
HE WAS THEN CHARGED WITH ILLEGALLY POSSESSING A REVOLVER AND
AMMUNITION AND WITH CARRYING A FORGED CANADIAN PASSPORT. THE
COURT ORDERED HIM HELD IN CUSTODY FOR A HEARING JUNE 13.
EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS COULD EITHER BE BROUGHT UP THEN OR
DEALT WITH SEPARATELY.
AMERICAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED A PROVISIONAL
WARRANT FOR RAY ON THE CHARGE OF MURDERING KING.
THIS WAS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE TO ENSURE THAT RAY COULD
BE REARRESTED IF THE HOLDING CHARGES FAILED TO STAND UP.
JT (MORE) RO/HAA

APPROVED FO
Date 19 AUG 1976

Reuters 12 June 68

NNNN
ZCZC EPZ 165
YT AND
1210: RAY:
LONDON, JUNE 12 (REUTERS)--THE AMERICAN EMBASSY TODAY TURNED
OVER A FILE ON JAMES EARL RAY TO THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE AS A
PRELIMINARY TO EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE ACCUSED
ASSASIN OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING.
BRITISH OFFICIALS WERE STUDYING THE INCH-THICK FILE THIS
AFTERNOON TO ENSURE THE CASE COMPLIED WITH TERMS OF THE ANGLO-
AMERICAN EXTRADITION TREATY.
ONCE SATISFIED, THE FOREIGN OFFICE WILL PASS IT ON TO THE
HOME OFFICE (INTERIOR MINISTRY). THE HOME OFFICE THEN MUST CHECK
THAT LEGAL REQUIREMENTS ARE MET BEFORE PASSING THE FILE TO
THE MAGISTRATE AT LONDON S BOW STREET COURT FOR A PRELIMINARY
HEARING.
AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS WERE HOPEFUL A PRELIMINARY HEARING
MIGHT BE HELD LATE THIS WEEK OR EARLY NEXT WEEK.
JT (MORE) RO/HAA

NNNN
ZCZC EPZ 166
YT AND
1213: 1ST ADD LONDON RAY:
X X X NEXT.
RAY WAS ARRESTED AT LONDON AIRPORT SATURDAY AS HE WAS
ABOUT TO BOARD A PLANE FOR BRUSSELS. MONDAY HE WAS BROUGHT
BEFORE THE BOW STREET COURT UNDER THE NAME OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD.
HE WAS THEN CHARGED WITH ILLEGALLY POSSESSING A REVOLVER AND
AMMUNITION AND WITH CARRYING A FORGED CANADIAN PASSPORT. THE
COURT ORDERED HIM HELD IN CUSTODY FOR A HEARING JUNE 13.
EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS COULD EITHER BE BROUGHT UP THEN OR
DEALT WITH SEPARATELY.
AMERICAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED A PROVISIONAL
WARRANT FOR RAY ON THE CHARGE OF MURDERING KING.
THIS WAS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE TO ENSURE THAT RAY COULD
BE REARRESTED IF THE HOLDING CHARGES FAILED TO STAND UP.
JI (MORE) RO/HAA

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

Reuters 12 June 68

HUNG
220 EPE 167
YY AHD
1216: 2ND ADD LONDON RAY:
X X X UP.

AMERICAN AUTHORITIES MUST ESTABLISH A PRIMA FACIE CASE AGAINST RAY TO OBTAIN AN EXTRADITION ORDER. THIS IS EXPECTED TO TAKE MORE THAN ONE COURT HEARING.

EVEN AFTER EXTRADITION IS ORDERED THERE WOULD BE A DELAY BEFORE BRITISH OFFICIALS COULD TURN RAY OVER TO U.S. MARSHALS FOR THE JOURNEY BACK TO TENNESSEE.

AT LEAST 15 DAYS MUST ELAPSE FROM THE TIME RULING IS MADE TO THE TIME IT IS PUT INTO EFFECT. THIS IS TO ALLOW FOR APPEALS AND ANY APPEAL COULD TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS TO DECIDE.

BRITISH OFFICIALS TUESDAY SWITCHED RAY FROM BRIXTON PRISON TO WANDSWORTH JAIL IN A NEIGHBORING DISTRICT OF LONDON TO PROVIDE TIGHTER SECURITY.

11 REUTERS RO/MAA

Reuters

ZCZC EPU 332

UV NOR

LD717 1ST ADD LONDON LEAD RAY:

(327) X X X COURT:

THE U.S. REQUESTED THE EXTRADITION OF RAY, 40-YEAR OLD ESCAPED CONVICT, ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE WAS ACCUSED OF KILLING KING, WHO WAS SHOT TO DEATH APRIL 4 IN MEMPHIS. A TENNESSEE GRAND JURY HAS RETURNED A MURDER INDICTMENT AGAINST RAY IN THE CASE.

IT WAS X X X PICKUP THIRD PARA (319) OF [illegible]

REUTER DV/AM

[illegible]
ZCZC EPE 327
KU NOR
05401 LEAD RAY:

LONDON, JUNE 18 (REUTERS) - A LONDON COURT TODAY RULED THAT EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE ACCUSSED ASSASSIN OF RV. MARTIN LUTHER KING WILL TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER CHARGES PENDING AGAINST HIM IN ENGLAND.

THE SUSPECT, JAMES EARL RAY, WAS ORDERED HELD WITHOUT BAIL UNTIL ANOTHER HEARING JUNE 27 WHEN HE MADE A BRIEF APPEARANCE IN BOW STREET MAGISTRATES COURT.

ET (MORE) OL/DM

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 10 AUG 1976

ZCZC EPE 375
NOR
07A4: RAY:

LONDON, JUNE 13 (REUTERS)--COURT PROCEEDINGS TO EXTRADITE JAMES EARL RAY, ALLEGED ASSASSIN OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, WERE FORMALLY AUTHORIZED TODAY BY HOME SECRETARY JAMES CALLAGHAN.

THE AUTHORIZATION WAS PASSED TO LONDON'S BOW STREET MAGISTRATES' COURT WHICH NORMALLY HANDLES EXTRADITION CASES.

RAY IS IN WANDSWORTH PRISON. HE WAS ARRESTED AT LONDON AIRPORT SATURDAY WHEN ABOUT TO BOARD A PLANE FOR BRUSSELS.

HE WAS CHARGED AT BOW STREET MONDAY UNDER THE NAME OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD WITH ILLEGALLY POSSESSING A REVOLVER AND AMMUNITION AND WITH HOLDING A FORGED PASSPORT.

(MORE) AS/BW

ZCZC EPE 376
YY NOR
07A6: 1ST ADD LONDON RAY:
X X X PASSPORT.

THE COURT ORDERED RAY HELD IN CUSTODY UNTIL TUESDAY FOR ANOTHER HEARING ON THESE CHARGES.

COURT SOURCES SAID IT SEEMED LIKELY THAT THE EXTRADITION CHARGE WOULD BE DEALT WITH AT THE TUESDAY HEARING. IT COULD, HOWEVER, COME UP SEPARATELY.

THE U.S. EMBASSY YESTERDAY HANDED OVER A FILE ON THE CASE TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE. AFTER STUDYING THE FILE TO MAKE SURE IT WAS IN LINE WITH THE EXTRADITION TREATY, THE FOREIGN OFFICE PASSED IT FOR ACTION TO THE HOME OFFICE (INTERIOR MINISTRY).

CALLAGHAN SIGNED THE AUTHORIZATIONFOR THE COURT HEARING THIS MORNING. THE PROSECUTION NOW HAS TO ESTABLISH THAT THERE IS A PRIMA FACIE CASE TO ANSWER ON THE CHARGE OF KILLING KING.

-- REUTERS AS/BW

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
19 AUG 1976

ZCZC EPE 387
YY AMD
1405: NIGHTLEAD RAY (SCHEDULED),
BY PATRICK MASSEY

LONDON, JUNE 18 (REUTERS)--BRITISH CHARGES AGAINST JAMES EARL RAY WERE PUSHED INTO THE BACKGROUD TODAY TO ALLOW U.S. EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS ON A CHARGE OF KILLING REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

THE EXTRADITION MOVE FORMALLY BEGAN AT BOW STREET MAGISTRATES COURT AMID UNPARALLELED PRECAUTIONS TO SAFEGUARD RAY AGAINST AN ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE.

ABOUT 20 POLICEMEN SURROUNDED RAY IN THE SMALL COURTROOM DURING THE 10-MINUTE HEARING.

THE 45 REPORTERS AND ABOUT 30 SPECTATORS PRESENT WERE SEARCHED BEFORE THE HEARING. RAY STOOD IN FRONT OF THE IRON-RAILED PRISONER S BOX INSTEAD OF IN IT WHERE HE WOULD HAVE MADE A BETTER TARGET FOR A GUNMAN.

CHIEF MAGISTRATE FRANK MILTON REMANDED RAY IN CUSTODY FOR A FURTHER HEARING JUNE 27 AFTER PROSECUTOR DAVID HOPKIN AGREED TO LET EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS BROUGHT BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER TWO BRITISH CHARGES AGAINST RAY.

THE CASE SEEMED LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. IF EXTRADITION IS ORDERED RAY CAN NOT BE REMOVED FROM BRITAIN FOR 15 DAYS TO ALLOW AN APPEAL. IF HE APPEALS THE CASE COULD LAST FOR MONTHS.

(MORE) JA/GH

NNNN
ZCZC EPE 388
YY AMD
1410: 1ST ADD LONDON NIGHTLEAD RAY:
X X X MONTHS.

ESCORTED BY THREE POLICE CARS PACKED WITH DETECTIVES, RAY WAS THEN RUSHED BACK TO LONDON S WANDSWORTH PRISON FOR A FURTHER NINE DAYS OF TOP SECURITY SURVEILLANCE.

THE MAIN SECURITY CELL AT WANDSWORTH IS THE OLD DEATH CELL USED IN THE DAYS BEFORE BRITAIN SCRAPPED CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

RAY WAS OSTENSIBLY TAKEN TO COURT FOR HEARING ON CHARGES OF CARRYING A GUN ILLEGALLY AND TRAVELLING ON A FORGED CANADIAN PASSPORT IN THE NAME OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD.

WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED AT LONDON AIRPORT JUNE 8.

LAWYER NIGEL MAW, REPRESENTING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, SAID EXTRADITION WAS SOUGHT ON TWO CHARGES. ONE WAS THE KILLING OF KING IN MEMPHIS APRIL 4 AND THE OTHER WAS A ROBBERY-WITH-VIOLENCE CHARGE FOR WHICH RAY WAS JAILED IN 1960 AND SUBSEQUENTLY ESCAPED.

MAW SAID A FINGERPRINT EXPERT WOULD BE BROUGHT FROM THE U.S. TO TESTIFY IN THE CASE.

RAY S LAWYER, ROGER FRISBY, COMPLAINED ABOUT A PRESS REPORT THAT RAY WAS INTERVIEWED BY U.S. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FRED VINSON LAST WEEK.

HE SAID VINSON VISITED A POLICE STATION WHERE RAY WAS BEING HELD BUT DID NOT SEE HIM. MAW AGREED THAT THIS WAS TRUE.

REUTERS JA/GR

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date ~~19 AUG 1976~~

TAC 1 TAT

BY RICHARD NORSWORTHY

LONDON, JUNE 20 (REUTER)--ARTHUR J. HANES, FORMER MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM, ALA., ARRIVED HERE TODAY AND ANNOUNCED HE WOULD DEFEND THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

HANES, DESCRIBING HIMSELF AS A "PRETTY FAIR COUNTRY LAWYER," TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE HE WOULD DEFEND JAMES EARL RAY IF HE IS EXTRADITED TO THE U.S. TO FACE FIRST DEGREE MURDER CHARGES FOR THE APRIL 4 SLAYING OF KING IN MEMPHIS, TENN.

RAY, BEING HELD HERE UNDER THE NAME OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD ON CHARGES OF ILLEGALLY CARRYING A GUN AND HOLDING FRAUDULENT CANADIAN PASSPORTS, WAS ARRESTED JUNE 8 AT LONDON AIRPORT.

HANES, WHO REFUSED TO DISCUSS HIS FEE, DEFENDED THREE MEMBERS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IMPRISONMENT IN 1965 IN MONTGOMERY, ALA., FOR THE SLAYING OF CIVIL RIGHTS WORKER MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO.

HANES WOULD NOT DISCLOSE THE SUM OF HIS FEE AND WHO WOULD BE PAYING IT BUT HE REMARKED: "I HAVE FAITH THAT MY FEE WILL BE PAID."

THE 51-YEAR-OLD HANES TOLD NEWSMEN HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER SIGNED BY AN "R.G. SNEYD" IN BIRMINGHAM SAYING HE HAD BEEN RETAINED TO DEFEND THE SUSPECT "IF AND WHEN HE IS EXTRADITED TO THE UNITED STATES."

RT/FORD) 10/AM

Reuters 20 Jun 68

[illegible]

LHHN
GSX0 EPA 63
NOR
1431 BST ADD LONDON RAY (U.S.) X X STATES

HANES SAID HE HAD MET KING, WHO DIED SHORTLY AFTER A SNIPER'S BULLET SLAMMED INTO HIM AS HE STOOD ON A MEMPHIS MOTEL BALCONY.

BIRMINGHAM WAS THE SCENE OF SEVERAL CIVIL RIGHTS DEMONSTRATIONS LED BY THE FAMOUS CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER, WINNER OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE.

NEWSMEN ASKED HANES WHAT HE THOUGHT OF KING'S ACTIVITIES.

"KING'S BUSINESS IS HIS BUSINESS AND MINE IS MINE," REPLIED HANES. "I DON'T KNOCK ANYBODY'S KICKS."

HANES SAID HE WAS IN LONDON TO INVESTIGATE THE CASE AGAINST THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN AND HOPED TO RECEIVE PERMISSION TO MEET HIS CLIENT IN LONDON'S WANDSWORTH PRISON.

HE SAID HE HAD NO STANDING IN BRITISH COURTS AND WOULD NOT ATTEND COURT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST SNEYD NEXT WEEK WHEN U.S. AUTHORITIES ARE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE A FINGERPRINT EXPERT TO ESTABLISH HIS IDENTITY.

UPI REUTER HG/DH

KD

RNNN
ZCZC EPE 110
TY NOR
1930 RAY1

BY PATRICK MASSEY

LONDON, JUNE 26 (REUTERS)--A BRITISH LAWYER RETAINED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS EXPECTED TOMORROW TO UNFOLD THE CASE AGAINST JAMES EARL RAY ON A CHARGE OF KILLING CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

RAY, WHO USED THE NAME RAMON GEORGE SNEYD WAS ARRESTED AT LONDON AIRPORT JUNE 8 ON CHARGES OF ILLEGALLY CARRYING A GUN AND TRAVELING ON A FORGED PASSPORT.

THE AMERICAN APPLICATION FOR EXTRADITION WAS SUBSEQUENTLY GIVEN PRIORITY OVER THESE CHARGES.

ATTORNEY NIGEL LAW WILL PUT THE EXTRADITION CASE ON TWO COUNTS--ONE OF ASSASSINATING KING IN MEMPHIS, TENN., APRIL 4 AND ANOTHER OF COMMITTING ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE IN 1960 AND SUBSEQUENTLY ESCAPING FROM JAIL.

JJ (MORE) CD/AG

Reuters 26 June 68

ZCZC EPE 109
NY NOR
1828 1ST ADD LONDON RAY
X X JAIL.
THE HEARING AT BOW STREET MAGISTRATES COURT HERE WILL
BE THE THIRD SINCE THE ARREST. THE PROSECUTION PROMISED TO
CALL AN AMERICAN FINGERPRINT EXPERT TO TESTIFY RAY WAS THE
REAL IDENTITY OF THE PRISONER.
AMERICAN LAWYER ARTHUR HANES, A FORMER MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM,
ALA., FLEW TO LONDON LAST WEEK TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR DEFENDING
RAY IF AND WHEN HE IS EXTRADITED. HANES INSISTED ON
REFERRING TO HIS CLIENT AS SNEYD.
HANES HAS NO STANDING IN THE BRITISH COURT AND COULD NOT
REPRESENT HIS CLIENT AT BOW STREET. AFTER INQUIRING INTO THE
CASE, HE FLEW HOME SUNDAY.
INDICATIONS WERE THAT RAY'S BRITISH LAWYER WILL
FIGHT EXTRADITION ALL THE WAY. IF EXTRADITION WERE GRANTED THE
DEFENSE COULD STILL APPLY FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS, AND IF
THIS WERE TURNED DOWN, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ASK FOR LEAVE
TO APPEAL.
11 REUTERS CD/AC

Date

WUN

CORRECTED REPETITION XXX

ZCZC EPE 223

UU AHD

0629 : URGENT ***RAY:

DO

LONDON, JUNE 27 (REUTERS)--A U.S. GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY TOLD AN EXTRADITION HEARING HERE TODAY THAT THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING ON APRIL 4 WAS THE WORK OF ONE MAN.

(MORE) HDS

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 10 AUG 1976

Reuters
27 June 68

[illegible]
[illegible] CORRECTED REPETITION X X X

DO

ZCZC EPE 230
UU AID
XS41 7 1ST ADD LONDON RAY:
X X X MAN.
(MAYBE BYLINED PATRICK MASSEY)
U.S. ATTORNEY DAVID CALCUTT WAS IN COURT TODAY
SEEKING THE EXTRADITION OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD,
WHOM THE F.B.I. HAS IDENTIFIED AS JAMES EARL RAY,
40, THE ALLEGED ASSASSIN OF THE NEGRO LEADER.
TO DO THIS, CALCUTT HAS TO PROVE THAT RAY AND SNEYD,
ARRESTED AT LONDON AIRPORT JUNE 8 ARE THE SAME MAN.
8? (MORE) HDS

Reuters Jun 68

170

2020 EPE 244
TT AHD
0755 5TH ADD LONDON RAY:
(37) X X X SAID.

CALCUTT THEN READ OUT SWORN AFFIDAVITS FROM THE WITNESS IN THE BIRMINGHAM STORE--JOHN DESHAZO, OF MONTAGUE, ALA., -- AND FROM THE WITNESS IN THE APARTMENT BUILDING, CHARLES STEVENS, 46.

DESHAZO SAID THAT ON MARCH 29 HE SAW A MAN BUY A RIFLE AND HEARD HIM SAY HE WAS GOING DEER-HUNTING IN WISCONSIN. LATER DESHAZO PICKED OUT A PICTURE OF THE MAN FOR THE F.B.I.

STEVENS, WHO SAID HE LIVED IN THE MEMPHIS APARTMENT WITH HIS COMMON-LAW WIFE, SAID THAT AFTER THE SHOT RANG OUT FROM THE BATHROOM "I HEARD THROUGH A BROKEN PANE IN MY WINDOW A LOT OF VOICES YELLING AND HOLLERING FROM THE BUILDING ACROSS THE ROAD."

MM REUTERS AS/MAA

Reuters 27 Jun 68

[illegible]
[illegible] EPE 254
[illegible] AMD
[illegible] - 2ND ADD LONDON RAY :
[illegible] X X X TALL.

IN BOW STREET MAGISTRATE S COURT, IN THE HEART OF LONDON S MARKET AREA, CALCUTT SINGLED OUT THE PRISONER AND SAID, "THE TRAGIC DEATH OF DR. KING WAS THE WORK OF THIS MAN."

HE SAID THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD BRING OVER AN AMERICAN FINGERPRINT EXPERT TO PROVE WITHOUT A DOUBT THAT SNEYD AND RAY ARE ONE AND THE SAME.

THE EXTRADITION HEARING WAS ON TWO GROUNDS--THAT RAY MURDERED KING IN MEMPHIS APRIL 4 AND THAT HE COMMITTED ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE IN 1960 AND SUBSEQUENTLY ESCAPED FROM PRISON.

THE MAN IDENTIFIED AS RAY WAS ARRESTED AT LONDON S HEATHROW AIRPORT JUNE 8 CHARGED WITH CARRYING A FORGED CANADIAN PASSPORT MADE OUT IN THE NAME OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD AND ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF A GUN.

(MORE) AS/HDS

[illegible]
[illegible] EPE 285
[illegible] AMD
0536 - 3RD ADD LONDON RAY:
X X X PERSON.

OPENING THE EXTRADITION CASE TODAY, CALCUTT SAID KING WAS THE VICTIM OF A CALCULATED, BRUTAL AND SENSELESS MURDER.

HE SAID THE MURDER WAS BITTER WITH IRONY, THAT THOUGH HE WAS A LEADER OF MEN, "HE NEVER SOUGHT ANY POWER FOR HIMSELF. THOUGH HIS NAME WAS A VERY PASSWORD FOR PEACE, HE MET A VIOLENT DEATH," CALCUTT SAID.

HE SAID THAT ON MARCH 29, THE SUSPECT WENT INTO A STORE IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA., AND BOUGHT A RIFLE, TELESCOPIC SIGHTS AND AMMUNITION. THERE WAS A CUSTOMER IN THE STORE AT THE TIME, THE ATTORNEY SAID.

THE NEXT DAY, DISSATISFIED, RAY WENT BACK AND CHANGED THE WEAPON FOR A REMINGTON 760 RIFLE WITH TELESCOPIC SIGHTS, CALCUTT DECLARED.

HE ALSO BOUGHT AMMUNITION AND TOOK AWAY WITH HIM A BOX WHICH WAS NOT THE RIGHT BOX FOR THAT PARTICULAR GUN, CALCUTT SAID.

"ON APRIL 3, SNEYD BOOKED IN AT THE NEW REBEL MOTOR HOTEL AT MEMPHIS. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY HE CHECKED OUT OF THE HOTEL AND ON THAT DAY IN MEMPHIS HE BOUGHT A PAIR OF BINOCULARS," HE SAID.

KING WAS ALSO IN MEMPHIS, STAYING AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL, A PLEASANT MODERN BUILDING, CALCUTT SAID.

(MORE) AS/HDS

Reuters 27Jun68

ZCZC [illegible]

MORE 7 [illegible] ADD LONDON RAY

[illegible] SAID [illegible]

POLICE DOUBLED THE SAME STRINGENT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS FOR TODAY'S HEARING AS THEY DID FOR THE PRISONER'S TWO PREVIOUS APPEARANCES IN BOW STREET COURT.

NEWSMEN AND SPECTATORS WERE FRISKED FOR WEAPONS AS THEY ENTERED THE COURT, AND THE SUSPECT WAS TAKEN THERE UNDER HEAVY POLICE GUARD. EXTRA POLICE WERE ON DUTY IN THE COURTROOM.

IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT, CALCUTT ALSO SAID,

FROM A BATHROOM WINDOW AT 422 1/2 SOUTH MAIN STREET, A PERSON COULD SEE INTO DR. KING'S ROOM.

AT ABOUT FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON THIS DEFENDANT WENT TO 422 1/2 SOUTH MAIN STREET, WHERE ACCOMMODATION WAS AVAILABLE, AND HE BOOKED A ROOM. AS HE DID THIS HE WAS SEEN BY A WITNESS [illegible] STEVENS.

[illegible] STEVENS, WHO OCCUPIED THE NEXT ROOM, [illegible] THAT BETWEEN 4 AND 6 P.M. THE DEFENDANT USED THE BATHROOM AND LAVATORY ON THREE OCCASIONS, EACH TIME FOR A [illegible]

MORE [illegible]

[illegible]

ZCZC PL237 [illegible]

[illegible] NOR

MORE 8 [illegible] ADD LONDON RAY

[illegible]

CALCUTT CONTINUED, AT SIX O'CLOCK, STEVENS SAYS, HE HEARD A NOISE [illegible] FROM THE BATHROOM. [illegible] THE DOOR OF HIS ROOM AND SAW A MAN LEAVING [illegible] [illegible] ROOM [illegible] CARRYING [illegible] [illegible] HURRY, LEAVING BINOCULAR STRAPS [illegible] HIS HAND.

[illegible] WHEN HE GOT OUT OF THE [illegible] ENTRANCE HE TURNED LEFT AND DROPPED [illegible] OF RIFLE, [illegible] AND BINOCULARS IN A DOORWAY.

[illegible] THEN MADE OFF IN A CAR [illegible]

POLICE SAID THE DEFENDANT'S FINGERPRINTS WERE ON THE RIFLE AND BINOCULARS, CALCUTT [illegible]

[illegible]

THE BULLET WHICH KILLED DR. KING WAS EXAMINED WHEN RECOVERED AND THERE IS A STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT THE BULLET CAME FROM THE RIFLE FOUND BY THE POLICE.

IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT THE [illegible] FOUND IN HIS ROOM [illegible] BINOCULARS FOUND [illegible] CALCUTT [illegible]

MORE

[illegible]

Reuters

ZCZC EPE 255
YY NOR
0356 : RAY--CHALLENGE:

LONDON, JUNE 27 (REUTERS)-THE MAN ACCUSED OF KILLING REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING SLUMPED DOWN IN HIS CHAIR AND CRIED, "OH GOD, I FEEL SO TRAPPED" WHEN CHALLENGED BY BRITISH POLICE, A DETECTIVE TOLD A COURT HERE TODAY.

DETECTIVE SUPRERINTENDENT ARTHUR BUTLER OF SCOTLAND YARD WAS TESTIFYING IN EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE MAN IDENTIFIED BY U.S. AUTHORITIES AS JAMES EARL RAY, APPEARING IN COURT HERE TODAY UNDER THE NAME OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD.

BUTLER DESCRIBED THE PRISONER'S REACTION WHEN POLICE, WHO SEIZED HIM AT LONDON'S HEATHROW AIRPORT JUNE 8, TOLD HIM THEY BELIEVED HE WAS RAY.

"THE ACCUSED HAD BEEN STANDING UP, BUT AT THIS HE SUDDENLY SLUMPED DOWN ON THE SEAT BEHIND HIM AND HE PUT HIS HEAD IN HIS HANDS AND SAID 'OH GOD,'" BUTLER SAID.

AFTER A MOMENT, HE ADDED, "I FEEL SO TRAPPED," THE DETECTIVE SAID.

== REUTERS DL/HDS

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 10 AUG 1976

Reuters 27 June 68

W176
ZCZC EPE 268
YY N02
1015: LEAD RAY:

BY PATRICK MASSEY

LONDON, JUNE 27 (REUTERS)--U.S. ATTORNEY DAVID CALCUTT TODAY DESCRIBED OFFICIALLY FOR THE FIRST TIME THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN MEMPHIS LEADING TO THE MURDER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, AND POINTED TO A MAN IN A BRITISH COURTROOM HE SAID WAS THE NEGRO LEADER S SOLE KILLER.

CALCUTT WAS GIVING EVIDENCE AT AN EXTRADITION HEARING ON RAMON GEORGE SNEYD, IDENTIFIED BY THE F.B.I. AS JAMES EARL RAY, 40, THE ALLEGED ASSASSIN OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER.

TO WIN EXTRADITION, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MUST PROVE THAT RAY AND SNEYD, ARRESTED AT LONDON AIRPORT JUNE 8, ARE THE SAME MAN. FBI FINGERPRINT EXPERT GEORGE BONEBRAKE SAID TODAY PRINTS FOUND ON THE ASSASSINATION RIFLE AND TAKEN FROM SNEYD BY BRITISH POLICE "WERE FROM ONE AND THE SAME PERSON."

JJ (MORE) JP/RAA

W178
ZCZC EPE 269
YY N02
1019: 1ST ADD LONDON LEAD RAY:

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date ______________

X X X PERSON."

CALCUTT, PUBLICLY OUTLINING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT S CASE AGAINST RAY FOR THE FIRST TIME, TOLD BRITISH MAGISTRATES IN THE BOW STREET COURT IN CENTRAL LONDON THAT KING S ROOM AT THE LORRAINE HOTEL IN MEMPHIS WAS OVERLOOKED BY A BATHROOM WINDOW ACROSS THE STREET.

HE SAID THAT AT FOUR P.M. APRIL 4 THE DEFENDANT WENT TO 422 1/2 SOUTH MAIN STREET, MEMPHIS, WHERE ACCOMMODATION WAS AVAILABLE, AND BOOKED A ROOM.

THE ATTORNEY TOLD THE COURT THAT THE DEFENDANT WAS SEEN BY A WITNESS--HE NAMED HIM AS MR. STEVENS--WHO OCCUPIED THE NEXT ROOM.

STEVENS SAID THAT BETWEEN FOUR AND SIX P.M., THE DEFENDANT USED THE BATHROOM AND LAVATORY ON THREE OCCASIONS, EACH TIME FOR A LONG SPELL, CALCUTT TOLD THE COURT.

CALCUTT CONTINUED, "AT SIX O CLOCK, MR. STEVENS SAYS HE HEARD A SHOT FIRED FROM THE BATHROOM. HE CAME OUT OF HIS ROOM AND SAW A MAN LEAVING BELOW. HE SAYS IT WAS THE MAN WHO HE HAD SEEN BOOKING IN EARLIER."

JJ (MORE) JP/RAA

Reuters 27 June 68

DS

NNNN

ZCZC EPE 272
YY NOR
1038: 2ND ADD LONDON LEAD RAY (269):
X X X EARLIER.

CALCUTT TOLD THE COURT KING WAS THE VICTIM OF A CALCULATED, BRUTAL AND SENSELESS MURDER. IT WAS A MURDER BITTER IN IRONY FOR THOUGH DR. KING WAS A LEADER OF MEN, HE NEVER SOUGHT ANY POWER FOR HIMSELF, HE SAID.

"THOUGH HIS NAME WAS A VERY PASSWORD FOR PEACE, HE MET A VIOLENT DEATH," CALCUTT TOLD A COURT IN WHICH STRINGENT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WERE AGAIN TAKEN TODAY.

THE EXTRADITION HEARING HERE IS ON TWO GROUNDS--THAT RAY MURDERED KING IN MEMPHIS AND THAT HE COMMITTED ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE IN 1960 AND SUBSEQUENTLY ESCAPED FROM PRISON.

THE MAN IDENTIFIED AS RAY WAS ARRESTED AT LONDON S HEATHROW AIRPORT JUNE 8, CHARGED WITH CARRYING A FORGED CANADIAN PASSPORT MADE OUT IN THE NAME OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD AND WITH ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF A GUN.

DISCUSSING THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE ASSASSINATION, CALCUTT SAID THE DEFENDANT BOUGHT A RIFLE, TELESCOPIC SIGHTS AND AMMUNITION IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, ON MARCH 29.

$1 (MORE) JP/RV

NNNN

ZCZC EPE 273
YY NOR
1040: 3RD ADD LONDON LEAD RAY:
X X X MARCH 29.

THE NEXT DAY, DISSATISIFED, RAY WENT BACK AND CHANGED THE WEAPON FOR A REMINGTON 760 RIFLE WITH TELESCOPIC SIGHTS, CALCUTT SAID. HE ALSO BOUGHT AMMUNITION AND TOOK AWAY WITH HIM A BOX WHICH WAS NOT THE RIGHT BOX FOR THE PARTICULAR GUN, THE U.S. ATTORNEY SAID.

IN A DRAMATIC MOMENT IN THE COURTROOM, CALCUTT SINGLED OUT THE PRISONER AND SAID, "THE TRAGIC DEATH OF DR. KING WAS THE WORK OF THIS MAN."

DESCRIBING THE EVENTS AFTER THE SHOOTING THE ATTORNEY SAID THAT WHEN THE DEFENDANT GOT OUT OF THE HOTEL ENTRANCE, HE TURNED LEFT AND DROPPED HIS KIT OF RIFLE, SIGHTS AND BINOCULARS IN A DOORWAY.

"HE THEN MADE OFF X X X PICKING UP 23RD PARA (257) OF (229).

$1 REUTERS JP/RV

Reuters 27 June

BY PATRICK MASSEY

LONDON, JUNE 27 (REUTERS)--THE MAN AMERICAN AUTHORITIES ALLEGE IS THE KILLER OF REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING DECLARED TODAY HE HAD NO GRUDGE AGAINST KING AND DID NOT KILL HIM.

3; (MORE) MB/RV

NNNN

ZCZC EPR 202
WU AND
1118: URGENT -- 1ST ADD LONDON RAY--TESTIMONY:
X X X HIM.

SPEAKING IN COURT AND PUBLICLY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HIS ARREST HERE JUNE 8 RAMON GEORGE SNEYD, WHO IS ALLEGED TO BE JAMES EARL RAY, CHIEF SUSPECT IN THE KING SLAYING, SAID, "I HAVE NEVER MET DR. KING. I HAVE NEVER HAD ANY KIND OF GRUDGE AGAINST HIM."

WHEN ASKED "DID YOU KILL DR. KING?" HE REPLIED: "NO, SIR."

3; (MORE) MB/RV

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
19 AUG 1976
Date

ZCZC EFA 28,
NC AND
1150: 2ND ADD LONDON RAY--TESTIMONY (282)
X X X SIR.
SNEYD, OR RAY, WAS APPEARING IN MAGISTRATE S COURT
HERE TO FIGHT AGAINST EXTRADITION TO THE UNITED STATES
ON CHARGES OF MURDERING DR. KING IN MEMPHIS APRIL 4,
ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE IN 1960 AND SUBSEQUENTLY ESCAPING
FROM JAIL.
EARLIER DAVID CALCUTT, A BRITISH LAWYER REPRESENTING
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, HAD PRODUCED
SWORN AFFIDAVITS THAT RAY WAS SEEN BUYING A RIFLE IN
BIRMINGHAM, ALA., AND FLEEING FROM AN APARTMENT
BUILDING OPPOSITE THE MOTEL WHERE KING WAS SHOT.
AN AMERICAN FINGERPRINT EXPERT TESTIFIED THAT PRINTS
ON THE RIFLE AND OTHER EQUIPMENT WERE THE SAME
AS THOSE OF RAY AND OF SNEYD.
MB (MOR) RV

Ray

NNNN

ZCZC EFC 283
UI AND
1155: 3RD ADD LONDON RAY--TESTIMONY:
X X X SNEYD.
SCOTLAND YARD POLICE SUPERINTENDENT ARTHUR BUTLER
SAID THAT AFTER HIS ARREST AT LONDON S HEATHROW
AIRPORT, HE TOLD SNEYD HE BELIEVED HE WAS JAMES EARL RAY
ALIAS ERIC STARVO GALT. HE WENT ON:
"THE ACCUSED HAD BEEN STANDING UP, BUT AT THIS POINT
HE SUDDENLY SLUMPED DOWN ON THE SEAT BEHIND HIM AND HE
PUT HIS HEAD IN HIS HANDS AND SAID 'OH GOD.'"
AFTER A MOMENT HE HAD ADDED: "I FEEL SO TRAPPED."
BUT SNEYD LATER DENIED IN COURT THAT HE SAID OR DID
ANY OF THESE THINGS WHEN CHALLENGED. HE SAID HE HAD MADE
NO STATEMENT TO THE POLICE AND HAD REFUSED TO SIGN HIS
FINGERPRINT FORM.
WHEN HE WAS CALLED TO THE WITNESS BOX HIS LAWYER
SAID HE DID NOT WANT HIS CLIENT TO TAKE THE OATH OR
TO AFFIRM TO THE TRUTH OF HIS TESTIMONY.
MB (MORE) RV

27 JUN 68

NNNN

ZCZC EPE 389
UU AHD
1158: 4TH ADD LONDON RAY--TESTIMONY:
X X X TESTIMONY.

ON THE ADVICE OF HIS DEFENDING CONSEL, ROGER FRISBY, HE SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO SIGN THE STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE.

DETECTIVES RINGED THE WITNESS BOX AS SNEYD--OR RAY--GAVE HIS EVIDENCE.

IT WAS PART OF THE NOW-FAMILIAR, STRINGENT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MOUNTED FOR ALL THREE OF HIS COURT APPEARANCES.

THEY INCLUDE EXTRA POLICE IN THE COURTROOM AND THE FRISKING OF SPECTATORS AND REPORTERS FOR CONCEALED WEAPONS.

THE CASE CONTINUES.

86 REUTERS AB/R

NNNN

NNNN
ZCZC EPE 416
V NOR
2107: RAY--WITNESS:

file

DO

MEMPHIS, TENN., JUNE 27 (REUTERS)--CHARLES Q. STEPHENS, A KEY WITNESS IN THE SLAYING OF REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, HAS NOT BEEN SEEN AT HIS USUAL HAUNTS FOR SEVERAL DAYS, IT WAS REPORTED HERE TODAY.

STEPHENS, 46, WHO OCCUPIED A FLAT IN THE SOUTH MAIN STREET HOUSE USED AS A BASE BY KING'S KILLER APRIL 4, WAS IDENTIFIED AS A WITNESS TODAY DURING LONDON COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR THE EXTRADITIONOF JAMES EARL RAY.

THE DOOR TO THE FLAT IN MEMPHIS WAS LOCKED TODAY. OTHER TENANTS OF THE ROOMING HOUSE SAID STEPHENS AND HIS WIFE WERE ABSENT FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES OF STEPHENS SAID THEY HAD NOT SEEN HIM FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

NEITHER POLICE NOR THE F.B.I. WOULD DISCUSS STEPHENS' WHEREABOUTS.

THE LAST CONFIRMED REPORT ON STEPHENS' MOVEMENT WAS JUNE 16 WHEN POLICE ARRESTED HIM AND THREE OTHER MEN ON INTOXICATION CHARGES.

A WAITRESS IN A NEIGHBORHOOD CAFE SAID SHE SERVED BREAKFAST TO STEPHENS JUNE 22.

S: REUTERS CD/EJH

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

Reuters 27 June 68

N109

ZCZC EPS 516

UI NOR

0741 RAY

LONDON, JULY 2 (REUTERS)--THE DEFENSE LAWYER FOR JAMES EARL RAY WOUND UP HIS CASE TODAY AND A DECISION WAS EXPECTED LATER TODAY (EDS: AT APPROXIMATELY 9 AM EDT) ON WHETHER RAY WILL BE EXTRADITED TO THE UNITED STATES TO FACE A CHARGE OF KILLING REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

THE DEFENSE AGAIN ARGUED THIS MORNING THAT THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER'S ASSASSINATION WAS A POLITICAL CRIME AND THEREFORE NOT SUBJECT TO EXTRADITION.

DEFENSE LAWYER ROGER FRISBY UNFOLDED THE ACTIVITIES OF KING BEGINNING WITH THE 1955 BUS BOYCOTT IN MONTGOMERY, ALA., THROUGH THE FORMATION OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.

"WHEREVER THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL BODY OF PERSONS IN THE STATE SEEKING BY CONSTITUTIONAL OR OTHER MEANS TO COMPEL THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE TO CHANGE ITS POLICY, YOU HAVE A SITUATION WHERE EVEN THE CRIME OF MURDER MAY BE MOTIVATED POLITICALLY," FRISBY SAID.

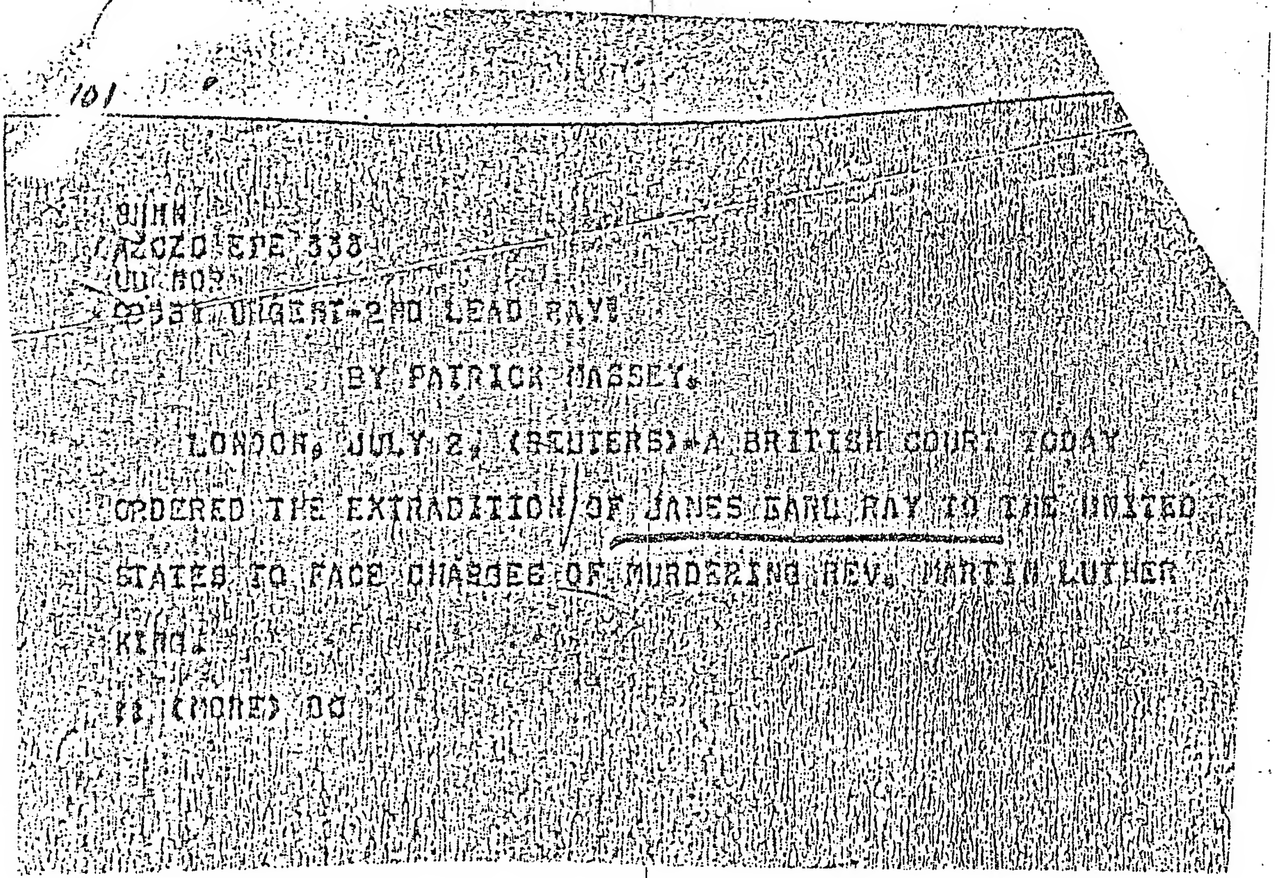
RAY--CHARGED IN BRITAIN UNDER THE NAME OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD--FACED AN APPLICATION FOR EXTRADITION TO THE UNITED STATES ON TWO CHARGES, ONE IN CONNECTION WITH KING'S SLAYING AND ONE OF BEING A FUGITIVE CRIMINAL CONVICTED OF ROBBERY.

AT (MORE) MD/DC

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Date 19 AUG 1976

101



8JHH
AZCZD EPE 338
UU ROS
0931 URGENT-2ND LEAD RAY

BY PATRICK MASSEY.

LONDON, JULY 2, (REUTERS)-A BRITISH COURT TODAY ORDERED THE EXTRADITION OF JAMES EARL RAY TO THE UNITED STATES TO FACE CHARGES OF MURDERING REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

[illegible] (MORE) DD

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

93

NNNN
A7CZC BPF334
UU NOR
0326 1ST ADD LONDON 2ND LEAD RAY:
X X X KING.

THE EXTRADITION ORDER WAS GRANTED BY CHIEF MAGISTRATE FRANK MILTON AT LONDON'S BOW STREET POLICE COURT WHERE A BRITISH ATTORNEY ARGUED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S CASE.

THE MAGISTRATE ALSO ORDERED RAY'S EXTRADITION ON A SUBSIDIARY CHARGE--COMMITTING ARMED ROBBERY FOR WHICH HE WAS SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IMPRISONMENT IN MISSOURI IN 1960. RAY ESCAPED FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY LAST YEAR.

(MORE) MO/MJL

103.

HHHH
ZCZC EPE335
UU WBR
C139 2ND ADD LONDON 2ND LEAD RAY
XXX X YEAR.

RAY'S DEFENSE COUNSEL, ROGER FRISBY, CONTENDED THE KILLING OF KING IN MEMPHIS APRIL 4 WAS A POLITICAL OFFENSE AND THEREFORE NOT SUBJECT TO EXTRADITION UNDER BRITAIN'S 1870 EXTRADITION LAW.

BUT MILTON DISMISSED THIS ARGUMENT, SAYING IT WAS NOT ENOUGH TO ESTABLISH THAT THE VICTIM OF THE CRIME WAS A POLITICAL OR CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE.

HE SAID IT WOULD HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED THAT THE KILLER ACTED FROM POLITICAL MOTIVES.

MILTON TOLD RAY HE COULD NOT BE SURRENDERED FOR EXTRADITION BEFORE A PERIOD OF 15 DAYS PASSED. THIS IS THE STATUTORY PERIOD WITHIN WHICH THE DEFENSE MAY APPEAL FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS.

COURT SOURCES SAID THE DEFENSE PLANNED SUCH AN APPEAL.

11 (NONE) MS/MJL

NNNN
ZCZC EPE 316
UI NOR
074A1 RAY1

LONDON, JULY 2 (REUTERS)--THE DEFENSE LAWYER FOR JAMES EARL RAY WOUND UP HIS CASE TODAY AND A DECISION WAS EXPECTED LATER TODAY (EDS: AT APPROXIMATELY 9 AM EDT) ON WHETHER RAY WILL BE EXTRADITED TO THE UNITED STATES TO FACE A CHARGE OF KILLING REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

THE DEFENSE AGAIN ARGUED THIS MORNING THAT THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER'S ASSASSINATION WAS A POLITICAL CRIME AND THEREFORE NOT SUBJECT TO EXTRADITION.

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"WHEREVER THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL BODY OF PERSONS IN THE STATE SEEKING BY CONSTITUTIONAL OR OTHER MEANS TO COMPEL THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE TO CHANGE ITS POLICY, YOU HAVE A SITUATION WHERE EVEN THE CRIME OF MURDER MAY BE MOTIVATED POLITICALLY," FRISBY SAID.

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11 (MORE) MB/BC

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

101

9JHN
A020 EPE 338
UU ROB
0931 URGENT-2ND LEAD RAY

BY PATRICK MASSEY.

LONDON, JULY 2, (REUTERS)-A BRITISH COURT TODAY ORDERED THE EXTRADITION OF JAMES EARL RAY TO THE UNITED STATES TO FACE CHARGES OF MURDERING REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

(MORE) DD

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

93

NNNN
A7CZO BPF384
UU HOR
0261 1ST ADD LONDON 2ND LEAD RAY:
X X X KING.

THE EXTRADITION ORDER WAS GRANTED BY CHIEF MAGISTRATE FRANK MILTON AT LONDON'S BOW STREET POLICE COURT WHERE A BRITISH ATTORNEY ARGUED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S CASE.

THE MAGISTRATE ALSO ORDERED RAY'S EXTRADITION ON A SUBSIDIARY CHARGE--COMMITTING ARMED ROBBERY FOR WHICH HE WAS SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IMPRISONMENT IN MISSOURI IN 1950. RAY ESCAPED FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY LAST YEAR.

(MORE) MO/MJL

103.

HHUW
ZCZC EPE335
UU UOR
0391 2ND ADD LONDON 2ND LEAD RAY
X X X YEAR.

RAY'S DEFENSE COUNSEL, ROGER FRISBY, CONTENDED THE KILLING OF KING IN MEMPHIS APRIL 4 WAS A POLITICAL OFFENSE AND THEREFORE NOT SUBJECT TO EXTRADITION UNDER BRITAIN'S 1870 EXTRADITION LAW.

BUT HILTON DISMISSED THIS ARGUMENT, SAYING IT WAS NOT ENOUGH TO ESTABLISH THAT THE VICTIM OF THE CRIME WAS A POLITICAL OR CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE.

HE SAID IT WOULD HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED THAT THE KILLER ACTED FROM POLITICAL MOTIVES.

HILTON TOLD RAY HE WOULD NOT BE SURRENDERED FOR EXTRADITION BEFORE A PERIOD OF 15 DAYS PASSED. THIS IS THE STATUTORY PERIOD WITHIN WHICH THE DEFENSE MAY APPEAL FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS.

COURT SOURCES SAID THE DEFENSE PLANNED SUCH AN APPEAL.

11 (NONE) MS/MJL

NNNN
ZCZC EPE 510
YY NOR
0454: RAY (SCHEDULED):

BY JAMES FLANNERY

LONDON, JULY. 3 (REUTERS)--LAWYERS FOR JAMES EARL RAY TODAY BEGAN PLANNING AN APPEAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT HIM FROM STANDING TRIAL IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THE KILLING OF REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

A MAGISTRATE AT BOW STREET COURT HERE YESTERDAY ORDERED RAY S EXTRADITION, BUT ONE OF HIS LEGAL ADVISERS SAID AFTER THE HEARING THEY WOULD ASK THE BRITISH HIGH COURT FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS.

SUCH AN APPLICATION, CHALLENGING HIS COMMITAL TO PRISON TO AWAIT EXTRADITION, MUST BE MADE WITHIN 15 DAYS AND COULD MEAN THE WHOLE CASE WOULD BE THRASHED OUT AGAIN IN THE HIGH COURT.

IF THE HIGH COURT CASE FAILED, RAY COULD THEN APPLY FOR PERMISSION TO APPEAL TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS--UPPER CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND FINAL COURT OF APPEAL.

JJ (MORE) RH/BW

NNNN
ZCZC EPE 511
YY NOR
0456: 1ST ADD LONDON RAY:
X X X APPEAL.

THE FINAL ORDER FOR HIS SURRENDER RESTS WITH BRITISH HOME SECRETARY (INTERIOR MINISTER) JAMES CALLAGHAN, IF RAY S LEGAL CAMPAIGN FAILS.

CALLAGHAN MUST THEN SIGN A WARRANT ORDERING HIM TO BE TURNED OVER TO AMERICAN AUTHORITIES.

RAY IS WANTED BY THE U.S. AUTHORITIES ON A CHARGE OF MURDERING THE NEGRO CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER APRIL 4 IN MEMPHIS, TENN., WHILE ON THE RUN FROM A 20-YEAR JAIL SENTENCE FOR ARMED ROBBERY.

L

NNNN
ZCZC EPE 511
YY NOR
0455: 1ST ADD LONDON RAY:
X X X APPEAL.

THE FINAL ORDER FOR HIS SURRENDER RESTS WITH BRITISH HOME SECRETARY (INTERIOR MINISTER) JAMES CALLAGHAN, IF RAY S LEGAL CAMPAIGN FAILS.

CALLAGHAN MUST THEN SIGN A WARRANT ORDERING HIM TO BE TURNED OVER TO AMERICAN AUTHORITIES.

RAY IS WANTED BY THE U.S. AUTHORITIES ON A CHARGE OF MURDERING THE NEGRO CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER APRIL 4 IN MEMPHIS, TENN., WHILE ON THE RUN FROM A 20-YEAR JAIL SENTENCE FOR ARMED ROBBERY.

LONDON CHIEF MAGISTRATE FRANK MILTON DECIDED YESTERDAY THERE WERE TWO GROUNDS FOR RAY S EXTRADITION TO AMERICA AS A "FUGITIVE CRIMINAL."

JJ (MORE) RH/BW

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

Reuters 3 Jul 68

ZCZC EPE 512
YY NOR
0622: 2ND ADD LONDON RAY:
X X X CRIMINAL."

THE FIRST WAS HIS CONVICTION FOR ROBBERY AND ESCAPE FROM THE MISSOURI PENITENTIARY AFTER SERVING EIGHT YEARS OF HIS SENTENCE, AND THE SECOND WAS THE CHARGE THAT HE MURDERED KING.

THE MAGISTRATE REJECTED DEFENSE CLAIMS THAT KING'S MURDER WAS "POLITICAL" AND NOT COVERED BY EXTRADITION LAWS -- AND THAT THE MISSOURI ROBBERY WAS NOT COVERED BY THE EXISTING EXTRADITION TREATY BETWEEN BRITAIN AND AMERICA.

HE ORDERED RAY KEPT IN CUSTODY FOR 15 DAYS AND SAID HE WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPLY IN THAT TIME FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS OR OTHER LIKE PROCESSES.

RAY DENIED AT THE PREVIOUS HEARING THAT HE KILLED KING, AND YESTERDAY HE MADE A STATEMENT OBJECTING TO TESTIMONY BY DETECTIVE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT THOMAS BUTLER OF SCOTLAND YARD, DESCRIBING AN INTERVIEW WITH HIM AFTER HIS ARREST AT LONDON AIRPORT JUNE 8.

RAY WAS INITIALLY CHARGED WITH POSSESSING TWO FORGED CANADIAN PASSPORTS BEARING THE NAME RAMON GEORGE SNEYD, AND ILLEGALLY CARRYING A GUN. HE WAS CHARGED ON THOSE COUNTS UNDER THE NAME OF SNEYD.

ANOTHER HEARING IS EXPECTED NEXT WEEK ON THOSE CHARGES.

REUTERS RH/EJH

Reuters

[illegible]
ZCZC EPE 053
SS LOR
1241: BULLETIN *** NIGHTLEAD RAY:
(SCHEDULED):

BY PATRICE MASSEY

LONDON, JULY 5 (REUTERS)--THE AMERICAN ATTORNEY FOR THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING SAID TODA HIS CLIENT WOULD PLEAD "NOT GUILTY" TO THE CHARGE OF MURDERING THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER.

(MORE) JC/EJH

[illegible]
ZCZC EPE 054
UU LOR
1245: URGENT **1ST ADD LONDON NIGHTLEAD RAY:
X X X LEADER.

ARTHUR J. HANES, FORMER MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM, ALA., MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT A NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER INTERVIEWING JAMES EARL RAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN LONDON'S MAXIMUM SECURITY WANDSWORTH PRISON.

HANES TALKED WITH RAY FOR 35 MINUTES.

(MORE) JC/EJH

[illegible]
ZCZC EPE 055
UU LOR
1248: 2ND ADD LONDON NIGHTLEAD RAY:
X X X MINUTES.

"I WILL ENTER A PLEA OF NOT GUILTY TO MURDER," HANES SAID.

A BRITISH COURT TUESDAY ORDERED RAY TO BE EXTRADITED TO THE UNITED STATES ON THE CHARGE OF KILLING THE NEGRO LEADER APRIL 4 IN MEMPHIS, TENN.

THE COURT ALSO AGREED TO EXTRADITION ON A SUBSIDIARY CHARGE OF ARMED ROBBERY, FOR WHICH RAY WAS SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS JAIL IN 1960. HE ESCAPED FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY LAST YEAR.

(MORE) JC/EJH

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

Reuters 5 Jul 68

[illegible]
ZCZC EPE 057
[illegible] 80R
1255: 3RD ADD LONDON NIGHTLEAD RAY:
X X X YEAR.
RAY WAS ARRESTED JUNE 8 AT LONDON AIRPORT IN THE NAME OF
RAMON GEORGE SNEYD ON CHARGES OF ILLEGALLY CARRYING A GUN
AND OF POSSESSING FORGED PASSPORTS.
RAY'S BRITISH LAWYERS SAID THEY WILL APPEAL IN THE BRITISH
HIGH COURT AGAINST THE EXTRADITION ORDER.
HANES, WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS "JUST A COUNTRY LAWYER"
ARRIVED BY AIR THIS MORNING.
HE TOLD NEWSMEN HE WAS CONFIDENT RAY COULD PAY HIS FEE
FOR DEFENDING HIM.
HE DECLINED TO SAY WHAT HIS FEE MIGHT BE AND BRUSHED
ASIDE FURTHER QUESTIONS WHEN NEWSMEN PERSISTED ON
THIS THEME.
(MORE) JC/EJH

[illegible]
ZCZC EPE069
[illegible] 309
1345: 4TH ADD LONDON NIGHTLEAD RAY:
(056) X X X NEWSPAPERS."
HANES, A FORMER MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM, SAID HIS REACTION TO
THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS ONE OF HORROR.
HE SAID HE WAS A DEMOCRAT AND DECLARED "IF CALLED ON TO DEFEND
SNEYD OR ANYONE ELSE BLACK OR YELLOW IF HE COULD PAY, I WOULD
DEFEND HIM."
HANES SAID HE WOULD CALL ON RAY IN PRISON SATURDAY MORNING.
HANES SAID HE AND RAY "TALKED ABOUT MANY THINGS--HIS HEALTH,
HIS ATTITUDE.
"I WOULD SAY HE IS IN GOOD SHAPE.
REUTERS JC/MJL

Reuters

YY POR

1338: 1ST ADD LONDON RAY:

X X X TUESDAY.

LAWYERS CLOSE TO THE CASE SAID IT WAS EXPECTED HANES WOULD INVESTIGATE CONSPIRACY ASPECTS OF THE CASE, INCLUDING ANY POSSIBLE LINKS TO BLACK OR WHITE RACIST GROUPS.

THE MEETING SATURDAY BETWEEN HANES AND RAY LASTED 70 MINUTES-- TWICE AS LONG AS THEIR MEETING FRIDAY IN THE VISITOR S ROOM AT LONDON S MAXIMUM SECURITY WANDSWORTH PRISON.

HANES SAID, "WE SAT CLOSE TO EACH OTHER, ONLY THREE OR FOUR FEET APART, SEPARATED BY A GLASS PARTITION SURROUNDED BY WIRE MESH. IT WAS VERY EASY FOR US TO CARRY ON A CONVERSATION, WITH ME LOOKING HIM RIGHT IN THE EYE."

THE LAWYER SAID WHEN HE WANTED TO ASK HIS CLIENT A CONFIDENTIAL QUESTION, HE WROTE IT DOWN AND THE GUARD IN THE ROOM PASSED IT UNOPENED TO RAY, WHO WROTE DOWN HIS ANSWER AND PASSED IT BACK BY THE GUARD.

;; (MORE) JF/BW

NNNN

UI

ZCZC EPE 295

YY GOR 13

1342: 2ND ADD LONDON RAY:

X X X GUARD.

HANES SAID HE ADDRESSED HIS CLIENT AS "OLD BUDDY AND PAL. I WALKED IN AND SAID "HOW ARE YOU OLD BUDDY" HE S LOOKING FINE, HIS SPIRIT SEEMS GOOD AND HE IS GRATEFUL FOR HIS TREATMENT BY BRITISH AUTHORITIES.

BUT THE ATTORNEY SAID HIS CLIENT AGAIN TOOK EXCEPTION TO COMMENTS MADE BY A SCOTLAND YARD POLICE SUPERINTENDENT ARTHUR BUTLER AT THE EXTRADITION HEARING.

BUTLER SAID WHEN HE CONFRONTED THE ACCUSED AND TOLD HIM HE THOUGHT HE WAS JAMES EARL RAY, THE ACCUSED SAT DOWN AND SAID, "OH GOD, I FEEL SO TRAPPED."

HANES SAID HIS CLIENT AGAIN PROTESTED THAT THIS WAS NOT TRUE AND SAID IT MADE HIM SOUND LIKE A 10-YEAR GIRL, NOT A GROWN MAN.

THE COURT TUESDAY ORDERED THAT RAY BE EXTRADITED TO THE U.S. BUT HIS BRITISH LAWYERS APPEALED THE RULING.

HE WAS ARRESTED JUNE 8 AT LONDON S HEATHROW AIRPORT UNDER THE NAME OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD.

;; REUTERS JF/DMM

Reuters

NNNNZCZC EPE 294
YY NOR
1335: RAY:

BY ARTHUR SPIEGELMAN

LONDON, JULY 16 (REUTERS) -- JAMES EARL RAY, THE MAN ACCUSED OF
KILLING REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, TODAY GAVE HIS AMERICAN LAWYER A
LIST OF PROSPECTIVE WITNESSES TO AID IN HIS DEFENSE IF HE IS
EXTRADITED TO FACE TRIAL IN THE U.S.

LAWYER ARTHUR J. HANES, AFTER A SECOND MEETING WITH HIS CLIENT,
SAID HE WOULD GO FRIDAY TO MEMPHIS, TENN., WHERE KING WAS KILLED
APRIL 3, TO START WORK ON THE CASE.

HE SAID HE EXPECTED TO LEAVE LONDON TOMORROW (EDS: TWA FLIGHT
[illegible], ETA N.Y. 1335 EDT) FOR HOME WITHOUT SEEING HIS CLIENT AGAIN.

THE BIRMINGHAM, ALA., LAWYER IS BELIEVED TO FEEL KING'S
KILLING WAS A POLITICAL CRIME WITH A LOT OF UNANSWERED QUESTION--
ESPECIALLY WHETHER IT WAS THE WORK OF ONE MAN, AS THE ALLEGED AT
ON EXTRADITION HEARING TUESDAY.
11 (MORE) UF/BW

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

NNNN
ZCZC EPE 135
UU AND
8171 URGENTRAY

LONDON, JULY 16 (REUTERS)--A LAWYER SAID TONIGHT JAMES EARL RAY HAS DECIDED NOT TO FIGHT EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS TO THE UNITED STATES WHERE HE FACES A CHARGE OF MURDERING REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

33 (MORE) RF/BW

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

92

NNNN
ZCZC EPE 136
UU AHD
1521 1ST ADD LONDON RAY
X X X KING,

RAY S BRITISH LAWYER MICHAEL EUGENE SAID TONIGHT THE TIME LIMIT FOR LODGING AN APPEAL AGAINST RAY S EXTRADITION CHARGE EXPIRES TOMORROW.

"HE HAS DECIDED NT TO LODGE THOSE PAPERS," HE SAID.

ASKED WHY RAY WAS NOT APPEALING, EUGENE SAID, "I AM NOT PREPARED TO SAY AT THIS STAGE. POSSIBLY TOMORROW."

(MORE) RF/BW

NNNN
ZCZC EPR
UU AHD

NNNN
ZCZC EPE 137
DU AHD
1831: 2ND ADD LONDON RAY:
X X X TOMORROW."

EUGENE SAID THAT RAY, NOW IN A BRITISH JAIL, WOULD PROBABLY BE HANDED OVER TO U.S. AUTHORITIES THURSDAY OR FRIDAY.

HE ADDED THAT HIS AMERICAN LAWYER ARTHUR J. HANES WOULD ARRIVE IN LONDON WEDNESDAY.

EUGENE WOULD MEET HIM AT THE AIRPORT TO DISCUSS TOGETHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE CASE, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THEY WOULD BOTH VISIT RAY.

1: (MORE) RF/BW

NNNN
VZCZC EPE 138
DU AHD
1833: 3RD ADD LONDON RAY:
X X X RAY.

RAY IS WANTED BY U.S. AUTHORITIES ON CHARGES OF MURDERING THE NEGRO CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER APRIL 4 IN MEMPHIS, TENN AS AN ESCAPEE FROM A 20-YEAR JAIL SENTENCE FOR ARMED ROBBERY.

HE WAS ARRESTED JUNE 8 AT LONDON AIRPORT IN THE NAME OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD ON CHARGES OF ILLEGALLY CARRYING A GUN AND OF POSSESSING FORGED PASSPORTS.

A BRITISH COURT ORDERED HIS EXTRADITION JULY 2 ON THE KILLING CHARGE AND ON THE SUBSIDIARY ARMED ROBBERY CHARGE. HE WAS GIVEN 15 DAYS IN WHICH TO APPEAL.

1: REUTERS RF/BW

NNNN
VZCZC EPE 139
UU NOR
1919: 4TH ADD LONDON RAY:
X X X APPEAL:

LONDON S CHIEF MAGISTRATE FRANK MILTON DECIDED TWO WEEKS AGO THERE WERE TWO GROUNDS FOR RAY S EXTRADITION TO AMERICA AS A "FUGITIVE CRIMINAL."

FIRST, THAT HE WAS CONVICTED OF ROBBERY IN MISSOURI AND ESCAPED AFTER SERVING EIGHT YEARS OF THE SENTENCE, AND SECOND, THAT HE WAS ACCUSED OF MURDERING KING.

THE MAGISTRATE REJECTED DEFENSE CLAIMS THAT KING S MURDER WAS "POLITICAL" AND NOT COVERED BY EXTRADITION LAWS.

IF RAY HAD APPEALED SUCCESSFULLY, THE WHOLE CASE COULD HAVE BEEN THRASHED OUT AGAIN IN BRITISH COURTS.

THE FINAL ORDER FOR HAS SURRENDER TO U.S. AUTHORITIES RESTS WITH HOME SECRETARY (INTERIOR MINISTER) JAMES CALLAGHAN, WHO MUST SIGN A WARRANT HANDING HIM OVER TO U.S. LAW OFFICERS.

(C REUTERS RF/BV

12

NNNN
ZCZC EPE 239
YY NOR
0831: LEAD RAY (183):

LONDON, JULY 17 (REUTERS)--JAMES EARL RAY, ALLEGED ASSASSIN OF REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, TODAY CONFERRED WITH HIS AMERICAN ATTORNEY BEFORE HIS PROBABLE EXTRADITION TO THE UNITED STATES TOMORROW.

RAY, 40, DECIDED YESTERDAY NOT TO APPEAL AGAINST EXTRADITION. HE FACES TRIAL FOR KING'S MURDER IN MEMPHIS, TENN., APRIL 4.

ATTORNEY ARTHUR J. HANES ARRIVED HERE TODAY AND WENT TO LONDON'S WANDSWORTH PRISON WHERE HE HAS VISITED HIS CLIENT TWICE BEFORE.

ONLY TWO FORMALITIES TODAY KEEP RAY IN BRITAIN--THE EXPIRATION AT MIDNIGHT OF THE 15 DAYS IN WHICH HE COULD APPEAL AGAINST EXTRADITION AND HOME (INTERIOR) SECRETARY JAMES CALLAGHAN'S SIGNATURE ON A WARRANT OF SURRENDER NECESSARY FOR EXTRADITION.

(MORE) HW

[redacted]

NNNN
ZCZC EPE 240
YY NOR
0835: 1ST ADD LONDON LEAD RAY:
X X X EXTRADITION.

CALLAGHAN CAN SIGN IT ANY TIME AFTER MIDNIGHT.

RAY'S BRITISH LAWYER MICHAEL EUGENE TOLD REPORTERS LAST NIGHT HIS CLIENT WOULD NOT APPEAL THE ORDER.

HE GAVE NO REASON FOR THE APPARENT CHANGE IN LEGAL TACTICS.

DURING EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS RAY CONTENDED HE DID NOT KILL KING AND HAD NO GRUDGE AGAINST HIM.

U.S. AND BRITISH OFFICIALS WERE BELIEVED MEETING TODAY TO DECIDE THE SAFEST POSSIBLE MEANS OF MOVING RAY OUT OF BRITAIN. ONE WAY SUGGESTED WAS TO FLY HIM BACK IN A U.S. MILITARY PLANE.

A U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIAL SAID, "RAY WILL DISAPPEAR OUT OF WANDSWORTH PRISON AND APPEAR IN MEMPHIS BEFORE THE PUBLIC EVEN KNOWS ABOUT IT."

RAY WAS ARRESTED AT HEATHROW AIRPORT IN LONDON JUNE 8 UNDER THE NAME OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD AND CHARGED WITH CARRYING A FORGED CANADIAN PASSPORT AND ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF A REVOLVER AND AMMUNITION.

BRITISH OFFICIALS TODAY DECLINED COMMENT WHETHER THESE CHARGES WOULD BE PRESSED.

(NO PICKUP)

REUTERS PB/HW

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 15 AUG 1976

[redacted]

[illegible]
ZCZC EPE 302
UI NOR
[illegible] RAY--HANES:

LONDON, JULY 17 (REUTERS)--JAMES EARL RAY, THE ~~ALLEGED~~ ASSASSIN OF REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, WAS REPORTED TODAY TO FEAR BEING LEFT ALONE WITH U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ON HIS EXTRADITION FLIGHT BACK TO THE UNITED STATES.

RAY'S ATTITUDE WAS REPORTED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN THIS AFTERNOON BY ARTHUR J. HANES, HIS AMERICAN ATTORNEY.

HANES SAID HIS REPEATED REQUESTS TO BE ALLOWED TO ACCOMPANY RAY ON THE PLANE HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN. THE ATTORNEY ENOUNCED THIS REFUSAL AS DANGEROUS, WRONG AND OUT OF STEP WITH RECENT U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISIONS.

THE RETURN OF THE 40-YEAR-OLD RAY TO THE U.S. CERTAIN YESTERDAY WITH HIS WAIVER OF THE RIGHT OF APPEAL AGAINST AN EXTRADITION ORDER MADE AGAINST HIM JULY 2.

HANES SAID THE DECISION TO WAIVE EXTRADITION WAS MADE IN ORDER TO GET RAY BACK TO THE U.S. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH A VIEW TO COMBATTING WHAT THE LAWYER CALLED AN UNPRECEDENTED PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM.

HANES SAID THE AMERICAN PRESS HAS PORTRAYED HIS CLIENT AS A CONVICTED MURDERER, A MOBSTER, A DEGENERATE AND A DRUG ADDICT.

REUTERS JC/HAR

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
19 AUG 1976
Date

Reuters 17 JUL 68

TZCZC EPE 350
YY NOR
1549: NIGHTLEAD RAY:
BY ARTHUR SPIEGELMAN
LONDON, JULY 17 (REUTERS)--JAMES EARL RAY IS ANXIOUS
TO GET HOME TO REBUT CHARGES THAT HE KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING,
HIS LAWYER SAID TODAY, BUT HE IS AFRAID OF BEING LEFT ALONE
WITH U.S. OFFICIALS ON THE EXTRADITION FLIGHT BACK.
ATTORNEY ARTHUR J. HANES OF BIRMINGHAM, ALA.,
SAID AMERICAN OFFICIALS VETOED REPEATED REQUESTS TO ACCOMPANY
HIS CLIENT ON THE EXTRADITION FLIGHT--WHICH MAY TAKE PLACE
TOMORROW.
HANES, A FORMER MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM,
CALLED THEIR REFUSAL DANGEROUS, WRONG AND OUT OF STEP WITH
RECENT SUPREME COURT DECISIONS.
HANES REFUSED TO ELABORATE ON HIS CLIENT'S FEARS, BUT
SAID HE PERSONALLY WAS AFRAID THAT AN ATTEMPT MAY BE MADE
TO QUESTION RAY WITHOUT DEFENSE COUNSEL PRESENT.
THE 40-YEAR-OLD RAY S RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES
BECAME CERTAIN TUESDAY WHEN HE WAIVED HIS RIGHT OF APPEAL
AGAINST AN EXTRADITION ORDER MADE JULY 2.
HANES TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE HIS CLIENT WAIVED AN APPEAL
BECAUSE HE WAS ANXIOUS TO PROVE HIS INNOCENCE AND COMBAT
"AN UNPRECEDENTED, VICIOUS AND LIBELLOUS PRESS CAMPAIGN
PORTRAYING MY CLIENT AS A CONVICTED MURDERER, MONSTER,
DEGENERATE AND DOPE ADDICT."
HANES ALSO COMPLAINED OF THE DIFFICULTIES HE HAD IN
INTERVIEWING RAY BECAUSE GUARDS WERE ALWAYS PRESENT.
:: (MORE) JO/HAA

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

[illegible]

CORRECTION

IN LONDON LEAD 2AY (493) READ IN FOURTH PARA (494)

[illegible] AGENTS LATER TODAY OR (FIXES POSSIBLE) TOMORROW.

BY REUTERS, JULY 18 [illegible]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Date 19 AUG 1976

24.

New York Times - 26 May 69

RAY FAILS IN MOVE FOR SECOND TRIAL

Judge in Memphis Rules He Gave Up Right of Appeal When Pleading Guilty

By MARTIN WALDRON

Special to The New York Times

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 26— Criminal Court Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr. ruled today that James Earl Ray gave up his right of appeal on March 10 when he pleaded guilty to the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The judge threw out Ray's request for a new trial and ordered the pudgy, 41-year-old convict returned to the Tennessee State Penitentiary at Nashville to continue serving his 99-year sentence.

During the session Ray, whose weight has risen from 170 to almost 190 pounds in two months of solitary confinement at the penitentiary, sat quietly behind his lawyers.

State prosecutors introduced into evidence a signed statement by Ray requesting that he be allowed to plead guilty in return for the 99-year sentence and agreeing that he would neither appeal the sentence nor ask for a new trial.

Legal Technicalities

Judge Faquin said that such agreements were legal and binding in Tennessee. He cited numerous Tennessee court decisions in behalf of this position.

Today's hearing, which had held the promise of being a forum for Ray's story that he was nothing more than a dupe who pleaded guilty because of pressure, never got beyond legal technicalities.

At the start of the hearing, Ray's three attorneys withdrew allegations that Ray's former lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston, had browbeaten Ray into pleading guilty.

Judge Faquin offered to throw open the hearing to allow Ray to state his position, but the attorneys representing him declined the offer. They would not explain why the allegations about the pressure had been withdrawn.

Robert K. Dwyer, the prosecutor, who just this morning

Continued on Page 19, Column 3

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

THE NEW YORK TIMES,

Ray Fails in Plea for New Trial; Judge Orders Him Back to Jail

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2

was appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals, was prepared to call Mr. Foreman and William Bradford Huie, the Alabama author who bought publication rights to Ray's story, to rebut any charges by Ray.

Ray had said that he was forced to plead guilty to promote magazine, book and movie rights sales for Mr. Huie and Mr. Foreman.

May Go to Higher Courts

Judge Faquin told Ray's lawyers, who included J. B. Stoner, of Savannah, Ga., an outspoken racist, that they could ask higher courts to direct him to grant Ray a new trial.

Failing that, he said, they could file a writ of habeas corpus seeking a new trial by alleging fraud or they could seek a full hearing under a post-conviction act that allows Tennessee convicts to seek leniency while they are serving prison terms. Mr. Stoner indicated that the lawyers planned to follow all three courses if necessary.

They contended at today's hearing that Tennessee law required that Ray be given a new trial because he had asked for it before the death of W. Preston Battle, the judge who sentenced him to 99 years. The judge died three weeks after the sentencing and before the time of applying for a new trial had expired.

But Judge Faquin ruled that Ray's case was not governed by this law because he had waived his right to appeal or to ask for a new trial.

Ray is expected to be returned to the penitentiary tomorrow morning.

25.

Dismissed Tennessee Aide Confirms an Offer to Ray

NASHVILLE, May 30 (AP)—Harry Avery, dismissed Thursday as State Corrections Commissioner, confirmed Friday that he had offered to place in a trust fund any money hidden away by James Earl Ray.

Mr. Avery's comment came in an interview with Jim Miller, WMAK radio newsman, after The Nashville Banner said the information was contained in a confidential report to Gov. Buford Ellington.

Ray is in maximum security at the Tennessee State Penitentiary, serving 99 years after pleading guilty to first-degree murder in the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis April 4, 1968.

The Banner said that the report quoted Mr. Avery as saying he had conducted three interviews with Ray at the prison, aimed primarily at solving the King slaying as well as to gather material for articles and probably a book.

Governor Ellington dismissed Mr. Avery after a report by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, which was highly critical of the entire state penal system. Mr. Avery quoted the Governor as saying his dealings with Ray were the basis for the dismissal.

New York Times
1 June 69

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

WASH Post 3 JAN 69

Assassination Unit

Formation of a new national Committee to Investigate Assassinations was announced. It will have its headquarters in Washington.

The executive director of the Committee is Bernard Fensterwald, former counsel to a Senate Judiciary subcommittee that investigated wiretapping and electronic surveillance.

Fensterwald said "the United States is fast becoming a banana republic" and "assassinations are becoming a regular part of our political process."

He said the new committee "ultimately hopes to force the Federal Government into the thorough and honest inquiry which it has avoided since Nov. 22, 1963."

Among the directors of the committee are Jim Garrison, the New Orleans district attorney who has been conducting an investigation of President Kennedy's assassination, and author Fred Cook of Englewood, N.J.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 10 AUG 1976

28.

Ray Deadline

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—With the illness of attorney Percy Foreman slowing preparation for the defense of James Earl Ray, Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle made it plain that he wants Ray's trial for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, I to begin as scheduled March 3 "if humanly possible."

Battle, in a hearing to determine the defense's readiness for trial, directed Public Defender Hugh Stanton to prepare to defend Ray if Foreman is unable.

He then ordered Stanton to report again on Feb. 1[illegible] on whether the defense would be able to make the deadline.

[illegible] JAN 1 8 1969

PERCY FOREMAN
gets trial deadline

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date [illegible]

29.

WP JAN 28 1969

JAMES EARL RAY

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Q. *Doesn't the U.S. Justice Department plan to arrest shortly the men who financed the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.?—R. Y., Rye, N.Y.*

A. Two prominent New Orleans businessmen reportedly contributed $25,000 to intermediaries who arranged for James Earl Ray to murder Martin Luther King. These men expected the assassination would cause a war between blacks and whites in this country with the eventual subjugation of the black population.

How much the Justice Department knows of the plot and the personalities involved is difficult to tell at this point. On March 3rd, when James Earl Ray stands trial in Memphis, the plot may begin to unfold. Ray, of course, was a pawn of limited intelligence, unaware of his true financial backers or their diabolical motivation.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date: 19 AUG 1976

30

W/P JAN 31 1969

Author Pays Last $5000 For Manuscript by Ray

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Jan. 30 (UPI)—Author William Bradford Huie on Wednesday gave Houston attorney Percy Foreman $5000 as the final payment for a handwritten manuscript from Foreman's client, James Earl Ray.

Huie said it was the last in a series of payments—"more than $30,000"—which were made earlier to Ray's former counsel, Arthur Hanes Sr., of Birmingham.

The 20,000-word manuscript was used by Huie as the basis for a three-article series which ran in Look magazine describing Ray's travels and activities prior to his arrest on charges of murdering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray dismissed Hanes Nov. 10 and hired Foreman, who subsequently gained a postponement of the trial from Nov. 12 until March 3. Hanes is understood to have obtained a lien to use the checks as payment of his legal fees.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

31.

FEB 8 1969

Ray Interviewer Cited for Contempt

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Feb. 7 (UPI)—Author William Bradford Huie was arrested today and charged with contempt of court for allegedly violating a ban on pretrial publicity in the James Earl Ray case.

Huie wrote a series for Look magazine on Ray, who is charged with the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The money Huie paid the suspect for his personal account of the case has been used by Ray to finance his defense.

Ray went into court today asking for permission to be photographed in his cell, where he has been held under the highest security. The photographs would be published by Look and would bring Ray as much as $6000, which he used by Ray to finance his defense.

Huie was taken into custody when he stepped from the grand jury hearing room, where he had testified for 2½ hours on the Ray case.

He had been subpoenaed by the jury earlier this week and had been told to bring with him a 20,000-word handwritten manuscript which he received from Ray. He used the manuscript as the basis for the articles in Look.

A spokesman for the magazine in New York said Look had the "fullest confidence in Huie and stands ready to help him in any way posible."

Huie ran afoul of a set of rules and regulations laid down by Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle, the man who will sit in judgment in the Ray case.

A special lawyers committee appointed by Battle to help him enforce the rules on publicity said Huie's magazine articles were in probable violation of the regulations.

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WP 8 MAR 69?

Ray Hearing Set; Guilty Plea Hinted

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 7 (AP)—James Earl Ray, charged with the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has been granted a hearing in Criminal Court Monday. The Huntsville (Ala.) Times said today that Ray will plead guilty in exchange for a 99-year sentence instead of a possible death penalty.

Asked about this, Ray's lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex., replied, "It's none of your business."

Shelby County Attorney Phil Canale refused to comment and State Attorney General George McCanless could not be reached.

Newsmen accredited to cover Ray's April 7 trial were notified at midmorning that Foreman had been granted the Monday hearing by Judge Preston Battle. There was no elaboration.

Judge Battle has issued strict orders against pre-trial publicity by any of the principals in the case. The Huntsville Times said, however, that a source close to the case said the guilty plea would be "the only way Ray can escape the death sentence."

See RAY, A5, Col 3

Ray Hearing Set; Guilty Plea Hinted

RAY, From A1

The newspaper at Huntsville said the State was prepared to accept the guilty plea. But the Times said such a sentence would have to be imposed by a trial jury.

The story said, however, that plans call for the jury to be empaneled and each juror will be asked if he can abide by the court's recommendation.

After a prima facie case involving only a few witnesses, the source said, the court then would accept a plea of guilty and recommend the sentence of 99 years. Under this procedure, the Times said, the jury would be allowed to leave the courtroom to confirm the sentence.

Previously, it has been estimated that the trial might last several months.

Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis last April 4 after he had come here to lead a demonstration in behalf of city garbage workers who at that time were on strike. Ray is accused of shooting Dr. King from a rooming house opposite the Lorraine Motel, where Dr. King was standing on a balcony.

The civil rights leader was staying at the motel pending a scheduled downtown march in behalf of the 1200 striking workers, most of them Negroes. The walkout, seeking a union contract and a pay increase, was settled soon after Dr. King's death.

Ray was arrested in London last June 8, after a worldwide manhunt, jailed by Scotland Yard detectives and returned to Memphis in secrecy, after lengthy British legal proceedings, to face a murder charge in Dr. King's death.

Since his return, Ray has been held in a specially armored, air-conditioned cell at the Shelby County Jail under tight security.

First scheduled to go on trial in November, Ray won a postponement after he fired Arthur Hanes, former Birmingham, Ala., mayor, as his defense lawyer on the eve of that proceeding.

Subsequently, he hired Foreman to take his case, and Foreman won delays until March 3 and then April 7, on grounds that he still had not had time to study the case completely.

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33.

Mrs. King Urges Conspiracy Probe

WP 11 MAR 69

From News Dispatches

ATLANTA, March 10—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s widow and his successor said today they now believed more strongly than ever that a conspiracy brought about his assassination last April.

Coretta King and the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, who who succeeded Dr. King as head of the Southern Christian leadership conference, said the search must continue for persons they say acted with James Earl Ray in a plan to kill Dr. King.

"For the moment, we have been spared a trial which would compel us to relive the fearfully tragic events of his death. But we realize that this is but a respite," Mrs. King said in a statement.

Mrs. King added that "all concerned people must press the State of Tennessee and the U.S. Government to continue until all who are responsible for this crime have been apprehended."

See REACT, A11, Col. 8

THE WASHINGTON POST
Tuesday, March 11, 1969 A11

Mrs. King, Abernathy See Plot

REACT, From A1

Earlier, Mr. Abernathy said that Ray's admission of guilt strengthens his belief that there was a conspiracy.

Both Abernathy and Mrs. King reiterated their stand that the death penalty for Ray would be contrary to the moral and religious convictions of Dr. King.

"Retribution and vengeance have no place in our beliefs," Mrs. King said.

"My husband believed that we must separate the man from the deed. In that spirit, I look beyond James Earl Ray to the racism which pervaded—and still poisons—the climate of America.

"It was the real killer. It incited violence against a man who was the very essence of nonviolence."

The Rev. Martin Luther King Sr., father of the slain civil rights leader, said he had no comment on Ray's plea.

The Rev. James Orange of SCLC, who was with Dr. King when he was slain, said, "I am trying to stay out of this. I think they should set that man free." He declined to elaborate when asked why he felt Ray should be set free, saying he had no further comment.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 197[illegible]

35.

Murder cover-up outrages nation

DAILY WORLD 12 MAR 69

By TED BASSETT and ERIK BERT

NEW YORK, March 11 — Public outrage mounted throughout the country today over the extraordinarily brief trial, conviction and sentence yesterday of James Earl Ray on charges of the killing last April 4, 1968 of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sentiment, expressed especially by Afro-American spokesmen, reflected the belief Ray was only the triggerman of a large-scale conspiracy, and that the trial proceedings Monday in Memphis were an attempt to cover up other participants in the conspiracy.

The Daily World, impressed by these views, wired Rep. Emanuel Celler (D-N.Y.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, urging a full investigation of the trial and all persons involved.

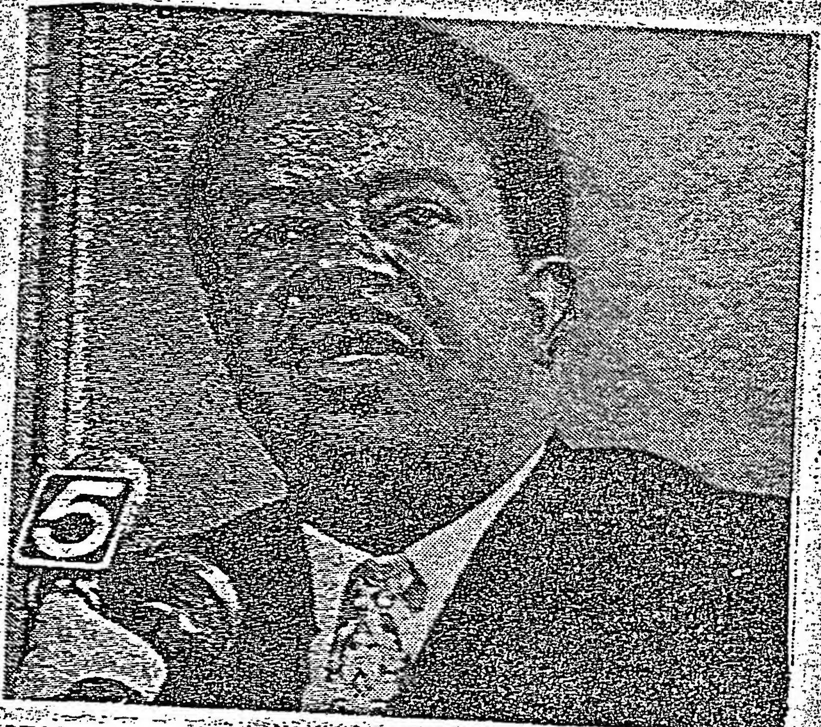
Among black spokesmen voicing doubt that Ray's trial and conviction had dealt properly with the killing of Dr. King were the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, Roy Wilkins, Floyd D. McKissick, William L. Patterson and Mrs. Coretta King.

Mrs. Coretta King, widow of the assassinated leader, said:

"We realize this is but a respite," said Mrs. King. "This plea of guilty must not be allowed to close the case, to end the search for the many fingers that helped pull the trigger.

"All concerned must press the state of Tennessee and the U.S. government to continue until all who are responsible for this crime have been apprehended. Not until then can the conscience of the nation rest."

Continued on page 11



—United Press Internationa

REV RALPH ABERNATHY tells newsmen at an Atlanta news conferenc that authorities should continue to investigate the possibility of a con spiracy in the murder of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rev. Abernathy said "The admission of guilt" by James Earl Ray cannot be allowed to obscur the real assassin.

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Black leaders demand probe

Continued from page 3

Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said: "James Earl Ray's confession and the court's action in sentencing him to 99 years' imprisonment for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. means only that the trigger man in this monstrous crime has been convicted. In a more rhetorical sense, the nation which permitted virulent opposition to the aspirations of Dr. King and his people is the real culprit."

Floyd B. McKissick, builder of "Soul City" and former head of CORE, said "I think that most of the American public knows that James Earl Ray was nothing but a patsy. Sure he was involved in a conspiracy, a specific conspiracy and a grandiose racist conspiracy in which the greater part of this racist-capitalistic society has participated."

Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, who succeeded Dr. King as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) said: "The Southern Christian Leadership conference is opposed to capital punishment and therefore has no wish to impose it upon Mr. Ray. The admission of guilt by James Earl Ray cannot be allowed to obscure the real assassin. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the greatest Americans who ever lived, who served black and white alike, was a victim of conspiracy by the admission of James Earl Ray. The SCLC is committed therefore to remain alert and vigilant until justice is meted out to all of the perpetrators."

William L. Patterson, Communist leader and chairman of the former Civil Rights Congress, said that the "unseeming haste with which James Earl Ray, the self-confessed murderer of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was tried and convicted is in itself almost irrefutable evidence of the conspiratorial character of monstrous crime. At present there exists on a national scale a conspiracy to behead leadership of militant, black-led organizations fighting to secure the enforcement of the constitutional rights and human dignity of black Americans.

Appeals for exposure

"The conspiracy involves the heads of city, state and national governments and those who are determined that black Americans will not attain equality of opportunity under the existing order," continued Patterson. "It is undoubtedly fortunate that Ray has been convicted, but that does not close the case of the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King. Black Americans and their allies must extend every effort to expose this conspiracy and its menace to the unity of this nation and the peace of the world."

Proceeding according to script

In the proceedings Monday in Tennessee's Shelby County Criminal Court, Memphis Attorney General P.M. Canale, Ray's attorney, Percy Foreman, and Judge W. Preston Battle participated in the deal whereby Ray pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 99 years imprisonment, escaping a possible death penalty if he went to trial.

The proceedings went according to script, as one reporter put it.

In an action startling even in Monday's extraordinary proceedings, the jury was coerced into accepting the verdict before the proceedings were begun. The jury was thus made a party to the deal, its right to hear the evidence violated.

'Wonderland justice'

The first 12 names called from a regular jury venire already on duty in the courthouse were picked and the men brought into the courtroom and seated in the box.

Canale, the prosecutor, told them of the deal with the defense attorney and asked if they would accept it. Each juror nodded approval.

Foreman, the defense attorney, asked each juror individually if he would go along with the deal. Each juror agreed.

And so, what Lewis Carroll had presented as Wonderland justice, became the script for Shelby County Courthouse:

"Sentence first,
Verdict afterwards."

Ray's own words

The court transcript shows Ray saying:

"I don't want to change anything that I have said.

"I don't want to add anything under it, either.

"The only thing I have to say is, I don't exactly accept the theories of Mr. Clark. In other words, I am not bound to accept these theories of Mr. Clark's."

The judge asked him: "You don't agree with whose theories?"

Ray replied: "Mr. Canale's, Mr. Clark's, and Mr. J. Edgar Hoover's about the conspiracy."

Former attorney general Ramsey Clark and J. Edgar Hoover had decided less than one day after the murder of Rev. King, according to defense attorney Percy Foreman, that no conspiracy was involved.

This was the theory that Ray said he would not accept as part of his plea that he was guilty.

He was not required to accept, as part of the deal for his life, that he alone was responsible for the murder.

Ray made it clear, according to the transcript, that he was buying only a guilty plea, not a no-guilty plea for everyone else.

Judge Battle said: "I think the main question that I want to ask you is this: Are you pleading guilty to murder in the first degree in this case because you killed Dr. Martin Luther King under such circumstances that it would make you legally guilty of murder in the first degree under the law as explained to you by our lawyer? Your answer is still yes?"

Ray replied: "Yes, sir."

Then a New York Times correspondent reported:

"The moment when the courtroom sat expecting Ray to repudiate the agreement that had been in the works since Feb. 21 passed without Ray's pressing forward."

But the question which Judge Battle asked, and which Ray answered was not the "main question."

The main question was this:

"Were you part of a conspiracy in killing Dr. Martin Luther King? Did other persons help you in planning and carrying out the murder of Dr. King?"

But Judge Battle did not ask it. Ray did not answer it, and it remains unanswered today.

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Mrs. King, SCLC Cleared Disposition of Ray Case

By Paul W. Valentine
Washington Post Staff Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 11—Court officials in Memphis said today the controversial disposition of the James Earl Ray case was cleared in advance with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and with Coretta King, widow of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Under the agreement that Mrs. King and SCLC officials reportedly approved, Ray was given a 99-year prison sentence—without a trial—after pleading guilty to the assassination of Dr. King last April 4.

Justice Department officials in Washington were notified of the plan in advance and raised no objections, it was learned.

Ray's [illegible] sentencing Monday, without a prolonged presentation of evidence in the case, stirred widespread controversy.

Some Negro leaders charged that the arrangement was a "cover-up" to prevent disclosure of a conspiracy behind the assassination. Mrs. King herself and some SCLC officials also contended that Ray was part of a conspiracy.

See TRIAL, A8, Col. 7

Mrs. King, SCLC Cleared Decision

TRIAL, From A1

There was also criticism of the arrangement from such papers as The New York Times, which said the decision not to air the full case in public was "a shocking breach of faith with the American people."

Officials involved in the case here, however, said the decision to dispense with the trial in exchange for Ray's guilty plea was based on a variety of considerations, including the consent of Mrs. King and SCLC leaders. They said—as Justice Department officials in Washington have said—that there was no evidence of a conspiracy that could have been presented.

The agreement, in the judgment of the court officials, met "the Nation's requirement for justice."

The approach to Mrs. King was made by the Tennessee prosecutor, Phil Canale, through her lawyer. Canale also consulted, it was reported here, directly with officials of SCLC, the civil rights organization Dr. King led at the time of his murder.

"He (Canale) wanted to get their general feeling about the agreement," a highly-placed official said. "Mind you, what they said was not controlling. We often consult with the family and relatives about the sentence arrangement, even in routine cases."

He said Mrs. King and SCLC "generally agreed" with the decision to avoid a trial although "some of the SCLC officials said they wanted to reserve their right to claim there was a conspiracy behind Ray."

After Ray's sentencing on Monday, Mrs. King made no specific criticism of the arrangement. She said, "For the moment we have been spared a trial which would compel us to relive the fearfully tragic events of his death. But we realize this is but a respite."

She went on to urge that both Tennessee and Federal authorities continue their investigation "until all who are responsible for this crime are apprehended."

Dr. King's successor as head of SCLC, the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, issued a similar statement.

Ray's formal plea of guilty to murder in the first degree got him a 99-year sentence, which bars him from parole eligibility until the year 2018, when he would be 90 years old.

If he had been given a straight life sentence, he would have been eligible for parole in 12½ years.

It is known that during delicate negotiations with court and prosecution officials, Ray's attorney, Percy Foreman, asked Judge W. Preston Battle whether he would impose the lighter sentence.

Judge Battle reportedly refused that proposal and said he would impose no less a sentence than 99 years because "the crime was too great."

Prosecutor Canale, according to court sources, also felt that the 99-year requirement was non-negotiable.

Foreman was in a weak bargaining position, it was said, because he knew the case against Ray was "airtight" and Ray "might have gotten the chair" if he had gone to trial before a jury.

Dr. King was shot with a rifle on the evening of April 4 as he stood on a balcony of the motel at which he was staying in downtown Memphis.

A rifle found outside a rooming house across the street from the motel balcony led to Ray's eventual arrest in London on June 8, 1968.

At the time of his arrest—and subsequently—there were widespread rumors that Ray had been the instrument of a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. King. These rumors were encouraged by Ray himself in interviews with the writer, William Bradford Huie, who paid Ray more than $30,000 for exclusive rights to his story. And at the time of his sentencing on Monday, Ray said in court he could "not accept" the official theory that there was no conspiracy.

However, Justice Department officials and the FBI, as well as the Tennessee prosecutors, insist that there is no evidence that Ray had any accomplices.

Prosecutor Canale said that if any evidence of a conspiracy comes to light "the conspirators will be promptly and vigorously prosecuted."

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Wash Post 12 MAR 1969

WP 12 MAR 69 KA

Associated Press

James Earl Ray is led in chains to State Prison in Nashville.

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WP 12 MAR 69

Ray Is Transferred in Chains To State Prison at Nashville

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 11 (UPI) — James Earl Ray was led in chains into the Tennessee State Prison today to begin serving a 99-year term for murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray, who switched his plea to guilty Monday and accepted a prearranged sentence, was removed from his Shelby County jail cell at 5:30 a.m. CST and transferred to State authorities near the county line.

He traveled the 200 miles to Nashville in an eight-car motorcade that pulled up to the State Prison shortly after 8 a.m.

Secured by a waist chain connected to heavy handcuffs and ankle manacles, Ray stepped briskly into the cluster of white, red-roofed buildings that form the State Prison on the outskirts of Nashville. State Safety Commissioner Greg O'Rear and Highway Patrol Inspector Mickey McGuire walked at either side of Ray, and all three were surrounded by heavily armed guards.

Ray, wearing a dark checked sport coat, dark pants and a white shirt open at the neck, bent over from the waist and shielded his head with his hands to avoid photographers. He ignored shouted questions by newsmen as he walked quickly from the unmarked car that had carried him from Memphis.

Ray, 41, strode past a guard's post through the main gate of the prison, where he will spend at least 30 years. He walked across a small courtyard and into the maximum security section.

"Everything went fine," O'Rear said of the transfer. "There was not a minute of trouble."

O'Rear said Ray was quiet during most of the trip, although he "talked a little about his past. There was not so much conversation."

Warden Lake Russell said Ray was assigned Cell No. 4 in the maximum security building.

The cell measures 6 by 9 feet, like the 22 other cells on the section. It has two bunks but only one is ever used on this corridor, because only one man is housed in each cell.

The backs and sides of the cell are 8-inch-thick, steel-enforced concrete, painted green. Besides the bunks, the only furniture is a metal combination sink and commode. There are 18 heavy bars across the front of the cell.

Once a day Ray will be taken outside to an exercise area enclosed by high walls. Twice a week he will step out his cell door and take a dozen steps to his left and take a shower.

Warden Russell and State Corrections Commissioner Harry Avery said Ray would be isolated. There will be no prisoners in adjoining cells. Avery said he and Russell had been planning for some time the "exceptional" safeguards required for Ray's incarceration.

Although most convicts are taken to the classification building immediately on arrival at the prison, Ray will remain in maximum security throughout the classification process, which normally takes about six weeks.

"At the end of that duration, we will determine whether there will be any special arrangements to be made other than the maximum security building," Avery said.

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Associated Press

James Earl Ray's maximum security cell in Tennessee State Prison at Nashville.

Wash Post

37.

WP 13 MAR 69

Eastland, Diggs Seek Probe Of Plot Aspect in King Death

By William Greider

Washington Post Staff Writer

Two disparate Congressional figures—Sen. James O. Eastland of Mississippi and Negro Rep. Charles C. Diggs Jr. of Michigan—each called yesterday for a deeper look into who killed the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Eastland, who chairs the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, said he is convinced that James Earl Ray must have had some assistance in the murder. "I'm assembling the available evidence," the Senator said. "There are some questions in my mind."

Diggs, an eighth-term Congressman from Detroit, said he is sending a telegram to President Nixon asking him to reactivate the Warren Commission or appoint a similar blue-ribbon group to explore the death of Dr. King.

The civil rights leader was slain last April by a sniper while he stood on a motel balcony in Memphis, Tenn. On Monday, Ray pleaded guilty and received by prior agreement a 99-year sentence, but the defendant told the court he could "not accept" theories that he had no co-conspirators in the crime.

Eastland said he will have a staff assistant gather information on the case, but does not plan any subcommittee hearings or field investigations.

"There are some questions in my mind," he said. "How did they know King was in the Lorraine Motel? How did they know where his room was? How did they know when he was leaving? I'm not accusing anyone, but it appears to me that somebody inside the hotel must have given information."

The Senator said he has "no direct information" on the case and no access to FBI or Justice Department evidence.

"If Ray did it, he was given information by someone inside that motel, that's all I'm saying," Eastland said. "How could he come into that city—a white man looking for King? It couldn't be done. Someone had to tell him."

Ray's earliest known appearance in Memphis was on April 3, the day before the killing, when he checked into the motel. The next day he switched to the hotel from which he fired the fatal shot)

Diggs said he also believes that a conspiracy lies behind Dr. Kings death. A full-scale investigation by a presidential commission "might relieve tensions" surrounding the murder, he said.

I'm asking the President either to reactivate the Warren Commission or form one similar to it," Diggs said. "The kinds of doubts that have been generated as a result of Ray's own testimony on co-conspirators leaves a very important responsibility to be taken care of."

Diggs said that because the Justice Department reportedly was a party to the arrangement by which Ray's trial was settled Monday, "I don't think it has a strong motivation to carry on an investigation."

"It's very difficult for me," he continued, "to believe that this man (Ray) could have all these experiences without some assistance—the passport, the cars, the money, all the rest of it. There's never been a satisfactory explanation."

From Hartselle, Ala., author William Bradford Huie—who has interviewed Ray for a forthcoming book — said the convicted assassin "is just smart enough, in his criminal mind, to put everybody on."

Huie, who retraced Ray's story of travels before and after the shooting, said Ray "does not want the case to die out—he wants the dramatic action to continue. The last thing he wants is to drop from the public eye."

Ray Tested on Mingling With His Fellow Inmate

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 12 (UPI)—James Earl Ray is undergoing six weeks of tests to determine whether he will be permitted to mingle with other inmates of the Tennessee state prison.

Ray, 41, entered the prison Tuesday morning to begin a 99-year sentence for the assassination of Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. last April 4. He pleaded guilty to escape a possible death penalty.

The prison has 1938 inmates, 824 of whom are Negroes.

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WP 17 MAR 69

Questions Remain, He Says

Ray Case Puzzles Trial Judge

By Bernard Gavzer

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 15 (AP)—Judge W. Preston Battle said today that he believes the full truth still is not known about James Earl Ray and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

But he said he is convinced that a trial would not have provided the answers, and defended his decision to accept a guilty plea from Ray in return for a 99-year sentence.

"Like others, I would truly like to know how Ray actually found the spot from which to fire," the judge said in an interview. "How did Ray know where Rev. King would be? How did he determine the type of weapon to be used? What are the details of the actual purchase and selection of the weapon? Was he alone in surveillance of the Lorraine Motel?

"Most puzzling of all, is his escape from Memphis. To me, it seems miraculous that he was able to flee to Atlanta despite the all-points bulletins without his white Mustang being spotted on a highway."

The judge said there is much speculation about possible answers, but nothing based on fact and evidence.

"There has been much talk of a conspiracy, but no one's saying so has yet produced a single shred of evidence or named an associate or conspirator," he said.

With these questions puzzling him, why did Battle concur in the defense-prosecution agreement to allow Ray to change his plea and take a 99-year sentence? Ray could have been sentenced to death if he had been found guilty.

"I was convinced then and am convinced now that the trial would have muddied our understanding of the substantial evidence which established Ray as the killer," the judge said.

"It is an error to assume that the prosecution would have had a chance to cross-examine Ray about his finances, or how he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary, or about persons who gave him any aid before or after the slaying of Dr. King.

"That assumes Ray would have taken the stand. I doubt very seriously that defense counsel would have risked placing Ray in such a position. In fact, as I understand it, this all along has been one of the main problems between Ray and various men who have acted for the defense. They counseled against it, and he kept wanting to take the risk.

See RAY, A3, Col. 2

Aspects of Ray Case Puzzle Judge

RAY, From A1

"Suppose he had taken the stand. The public should understand that this would not guarantee that this would have cast light upon these puzzling questions. In an adversary proceeding, each side tries to make the best case, and so some things might be exaggerated, some minimized or obscured."

The judge could have refused to accept the defense-prosecution agreement.

"It was entirely in my power to do so," Battle said. "But my conscience told me that it better served the ends of justice to accept the agreement.

"Had there been a trial, there could always have been the possibility, in such an emotionally charged case, of a hung jury. Or, though it may appear far-fetched now, he could have perhaps been acquitted by a jury."

Prosecutor Phil Canale said in a television interview today that Ray accepted the deal because he thinks he will "be free in two years," United Press International reported. Canale said Ray made the remark to his attorney, Percy Foreman, but did not indicate whether he expected to gain his freedom through the courts or through a prison break.

Battle said he thinks that some of the unanswered questions ultimately will be answered by Ray. He said he thinks that Ray has enjoyed the notoriety and will periodically explain various details of the crime.

The judge was taken aback by some of the public response to the March 10 proceeding at which the plea-and-punishment agreement was made official.

"I must admit I was irritated at it being called a minitrial," he said. "It was not a trial."

The record indicates a rather careful proceeding in which Battle attempted to avoid any happenstance that could be interpreted as judicial error or seized upon as grounds for abrogating the

Ray as to Ray's understanding of the agreement and whether he was doing this of his free choice.

"The law requires only two things in such a proceeding," the judge said. "One is that we present the body of the corpus delicti, and the second is that evidence be presented establishing that the defendant was involved with the crime.

"This was accomplis
through the witnesses
appeared and testified to
last living moments of
King and to the nature
cause of death. The evide
relating Ray to the slay
was stipulated and read
open court by the State,
this described the chain
evidence which would h
been introduced in a tri

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WP 18 MAR 69

Ray Radio Bore Prison Number

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—In his flight from the scene of the Martin Luther King assassination, James Earl Ray abandoned a pocket radio in a plastic case bearing his number as an inmate of the Missouri state penitentiary.

The meaning of the number eluded the authorities until weeks after Ray's capture June 8 in London, it was disclosed yesterday.

James Beasley of the Shelby County attorney general's staff said Ray dropped his rifle, a pair of binoculars and the case with the radio in it and the inch-high numerals 00416 etched on it in a doorway near the roominghouse from which he shot the civil rights leader.

That was Ray's number at the Missouri prison, where he was serving 20 years for robbery when he escaped April 23, 1967. Beasley said the radio was turned over to the FBI the day of the slaying.

Fred Wilkinson, director of the Missouri Department of Corrections, said that if the number had been made public perhaps "someone would have made an association between the two."

Warden Harold Swenson said Ray had bought the radio in the penitentiary canteen on April 21, 1967—two days before he escaped. It cost $9.75. In accordance with prison practice, Ray etched his number on the case with an electric stylus to establish ownership.

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WP 18 MAR 69

Ray Clue Took Weeks to Unravel

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 17 (AP)—Within minutes after the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated last April 4, authorities had in their hands a clue to the identity of James Earl Ray—but they failed to decipher it until after Ray was caught in London.

The clue was on a transistor pocket radio which was hand-etched with the half-inch high numerals 00416.

00416 was the identification number of James Earl Ray in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City. He was serving a 20-year sentence when he escaped April 23, 1967.

The radio was among effects abandoned by Ray after he shot Dr. King. He dropped his rifle, a set of binoculars and a case which included the radio at a doorway near the rooming house from which he fired the shot.

James Beasley of the Shelby County attorney general's staff said the radio had been turned over to the FBI with other physical evidence that same evening. The numerals, he said, were discovered through tests at the FBI laboratory in Washington.

"You can see that someone had tried to file or sand them off the case," Beasley said.

"I couldn't see the numerals until they were pointed out to me, but the FBI found them within 24 hours by treating the case so the numerals showed up."

Ray bought the radio in the Missouri penitentiary canteen on April 21, two days before he escaped. Prison practice is for inmates to etch their numbers on personal property to prevent theft or arguments over ownership.

Ray's number, 00416, was etched into the back of his radio. Ray paid $9.75 for it.

There was some speculation that he bought the radio to carry with him on his escape.

Since secrecy surrounded the search for evidence in the King case there was no way for anyone at Missouri State Penitentiary to know that the radio contained Ray's inmate number. There were published reports of a radio, but none mentioned the etched numerals.

40.

Ray Seeks Review of Guilty Plea

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 19 [illegible]—James Earl Ray has notified the judge who sentenced him to 99 years in prison that he plans to seek a hearing soon to review his guilty plea in the death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Published reports say he now wants to withdraw the plea and stand trial for first-degree murder.

Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle Jr. disclosed today that he had received the letter from Ray in the Tennessee State Penitentiary. The judge would say only that Ray wants [illegible] hearing, and [illegible] wrote that he has fired his lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex.

Foreman, in New York City, could not be reached for comment immediately.

Ray, who had been scheduled to go on trial in the case April [illegible], abruptly switched plans and pleaded guilty March 10. The 99-year sentence was prearranged by the state and Foreman, and Ray began serving his time in the state prison the next day.

Ray was quoted as telling officers who accompanied him from the Shelby County Jail here to Nashville that he now had second thoughts, wishing he had gone to trial.

Today the Memphis Press-Scimitar reported he now will seek to withdraw the guilty plea and go to trial as previously planned. The discharge of Foreman, the second attorney Ray had fired since his arrest in London June 8, would be in line with such plans.

In any case, legal authorities said Ray probably will have to file a writ of habeas corpus claiming his rights somehow were denied.

When Ray pleaded guilty, the judge questioned him at length on whether he realized such a plea precluded any post-conviction remedy, including hearings or appeals to higher courts. Ray answered [illegible].

Battle also asked Ray at that time: "Is this plea of guilty on your part a free act of your own free will, made with your full knowledge and understanding of its meaning and consequences?"

"Yes, sir," Ray answered.

WASH POST
20 MAR 69

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Date 19 AUG 1976

WP 22 MAR 69

Ex-Official of Klan Offers Aid to Ray

SAVANNAH, Ga., March 21 (AP) — The office of J. B. Stoner said today that Stoner, an attorney with past connections with the Ku Klux Klan and the National States Rights Party, will represent James Earl Ray in his fight for a new trial in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A spokesman, Edward S. Fields, said Stoner is en route by automobile to Nashville where he plans to confer with Ray Saturday morning.

Ray was imprisoned in Nashville after pleading guilty in Memphis to King's slaying and receiving a 99-year sentence. Fields said Stoner was hired to help Ray change his plea to innocent and to defend him if he wins a new trial. Fields said that Ray originally had contacted Stoner shortly after Ray's arrest in London and that there had been correspondence between the two since. Fields said that Stoner had visited Ray in Memphis.

Stoner, who was a vice presidential candidate for the National States Rights Party, has in the past styled himself as "imperial wizard of the Christian Knights of the Klan."

He once published a Klan paper in Louisville, Ky., and Atlanta and authored a book entitled "the Gospel of Jesus Christ Versus the Jews."

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Date: 10 [illegible]

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WP 23 MAR 69

Ray Pressured for Plea Of Guilty, Lawyer Says

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 22 (UPI)—Attorney J. B. Stoner visited James Earl Ray in his prison cell today and later said Ray was innocent of the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. but had been "pressured into pleading guilty."

Stoner, once an organizer for the Ku Klux Klan and the 1964 vice presidential candidate for the National States Rights Party, also claimed to have new information in the Ray case. He declined, however, to elaborate on his charge that pressure was applied.

He said he couldn't divulge the nature of the evidence because "I might need it later on for his trial."

Asked whether it would stand up in court, he said: "According to the information given me, it will stand up very substantially."

Stoner saw Ray for more than two hours in the maximum security section of the Tennessee State Prison and said he "seemed to be in good spirits for a man in this particular hotel."

Stoner said he was not representing Ray in criminal matter but was handling several libel suits that Ray intends to file against magazines which made "false and defamatory" charges against him.

Memphis police, meantime, said King's murder was so ineptly carried out that it was hard to believe there was a conspiracy.

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WASH POST - 26 MAR. 69

Defender's Cut

MEMPHIS—District Attorney Phil Canale says that if lawyer Percy Foreman gets $150,000 for his work in the James Earl Ray case, he should consider repaying the State of Tennessee for work done by the public defender's office.

Foreman has said he expects to get about $150,000 as his share of proceeds from books and a movie about Ray and the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"I assume he will now want to carry out a proper reimbursement for services from the public defender," Canale said. The public defender's office gathered material for Ray's defense and turned it over to Foreman.

E-5 THE EVENING STAR
Washington, D. C., Wednesday, March 25, 1969

Ray Attorney Expects To Sue National Figures

SAVANNAH, Ga. (UPI)—Attorney J. B. Stoner says he will raise a "commotion" next week when he files civil suits on behalf of James Earl Ray against "national figures."

The suits which he will file for Ray, now appealing for a new trial in the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "will involve national figures but won't mention any national organizations at this time," Stoner said yesterday.

The lawyer, who has past connections with the Ku Klux Klan and is an avowed white supremacist, stressed, however, that he would not defend Ray in any criminal case.

"I've been talking to him (Ray) only about the civil action," Stoner said. "There's an overlapping in the criminal and civil cases, but my interest is in the civil case."

Stoner had said Saturday before his visit to Ray in Tennessee State Prison in Nashville that he possibly would represent Ray in libel suits against national magazines. Yesterday, how- rather for it to be a matter of ever, Stoner indicated there would be no libel suits in the immediate future.

Stoner said he would file the suits against the national figures "as soon as I can get them prepared, no later than next week."

He said his action will be backed "by undisputed facts of such a strong nature that I'd public record," rather than reveal the names of the defendants at the preset time.

Stoner said that he had been representing Ray in civil action "since last fall, sometime in September or October,"

Meanwhile, in Memphis, Tenn., the $55,000 in reward money offered in the slaying of King which cannot go to the FBI—may go unclaimed.

The newspaper Commercial Appeal, offered a reward of $25,000, the Scripps-Howard organization (inciuing the Memphis Press-Scimitar) offered another $25,000 and the Memphis City Council announced a pledge to underwrite a total reward of $100,000. Later, the city attorney advised the council that it is in violation of the law to pay a reward exceeding $5,000.

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[illegible]

[illegible] use of an [illegible] have endangered the [illegible] projected book and [illegible] presented first by [illegible] of Birmingham [illegible] in Novem- [illegible] Ray's [illegible] by Percy Foreman [illegible] who arranged a [illegible] sentence in exchange for [illegible] plea.

8APR 1969

Claims Duress

The motion said Foreman pressured him, and he, the defendant, under duress due to this pressure, entered a plea of guilty [illegible] the sole financial gain of the said attorney."

Attached to the petition were letters and agreements involving Ray and author William Bradford Huie of Hartselle, Ala., who is writing a book about Ray and negotiating movie rights, Huie [illegible]

[illegible] outlined financial [illegible] under which Huie, [illegible] wrote a series [illegible] articles on the case, [illegible] of his royalties to [illegible] attorneys.

[illegible] said in the motion that if [illegible] the stand in a full [illegible] which he would have [illegible]"

[illegible] contended that his guilty plea was "a farce, a sham and a mockery of justice."

No date has been set for a hearing on the motion. The attorney general's office has said that Ray would be returned from his maximum security cell in the penitentiary in Nashville to Memphis for any such hearings.

3 Listed as Attorneys

The motion was filed by three men listed as attorneys for Ray—Richard J. Ryan of Memphis, J. B. Stoner of Savannah, Ga., and Robert W. Hill Jr. of Chattanooga.

Ray formally dismissed Foreman as his attorney in a letter to Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle on March 13. Battle, who had received the guilty plea March 10, died of a heart attack March 31 and a previously undisclosed second letter from Ray was found among his effects.

It said the letter should be taken as notice of an intention to seek a new trial and the petition [illegible] was listed as an [illegible] supplemental motion, which was de-

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 10 AUG 1976

Ray Files For Trial in King Slaying

By Jim Squires

Special to The Washington Post

MEMPHIS, April 7 — James Earl Ray formally requested a new trial today on grounds he was deprived of effective legal counsel because his attorneys had conflicting interests in making publication contracts with author William Bradford Huie.

In a motion filed by three new attorneys, Ray claimed he was pressured into pleading guilty March 10 to murdering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and that he now wishes to stand trial. He said the hearing was a farce, a sham and a mockery of justice.

The three-page motion alleged that Ray's former attorneys, Percy Foreman of Houston and Arthur Hanes Sr. of Birmingham, had acted for Huie and their own "financial interests" and had not represented Ray.

Criminal Court Judge Arthur Facquin must now decide whether the motion is a proper one for the court to consider. Facquin, appointed to handle the case after the death of Judge Preston Battle, took no action and declined to comment on the motion.

Hamilton S. Burnett, of the Tennessee Supreme Court, has said the only way Ray can seek relief is through a habeas corpus petition claiming that his constitutional rights were violated. Burnett maintains Ray waived all rights to a normal appeal, such as a new trial motion, by entering a guilty plea.

If Facquin agrees with Burnett, he can dismiss Ray's motion without scheduling a hearing. Ray could then submit it again as a habeas corpus petition and could be granted a hearing.

The motion filed today was entitled an "amended motion for a new trial" and was merely a legal follow-up to two letters containing similar charges Ray wrote Judge Battle before his death.

The motions were signed by attorneys Richard J. Ryan of Memphis, J. B. Stoner, a Ku Klux Klan lawyer, from Savannah, and Robert W. Hill of Chattanooga.

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WP 12 APR 69

Foreman, Huie Sued by Ray

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray has charged in a federal suit that his former lawyer and his biographer were more interested in money than in his right to a fair trial.

Ray asked yesterday that an estimated $1 million worth of contracts with his biographer, William Bradford Huie of Hartselle, Ala., and his former attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex., be nullified.

Ray is serving a 99-year sentence in Tennessee State Prison here after pleading guilty to a murder charge in the April 4, 1968, slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis.

The suit was filed by Robert Hill Jr. of Chattanooga, one of Ray's attorneys in civil matters. Later yesterday, Hill obtained a federal court order to see Ray after Harry S. Avery, state corrections commissioner, refused to let the attorney enter the prison.

U.S. Dist. Court Judge William E. Miller issued the order after Avery said Richard J. Ryan of Memphis, who is seeking a new trial for Ray, is the only attorney of record in the case.

Ray's suit contends he was pressured by Foreman into pleading guilty—the same grounds he cited in asking a new trial.

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Date 19 AUG 1976

TRANSMITTAL SLIP

TRANSMITTAL SLIP	DATE
TO:	
ROOM NO.	BUILDING

REMARKS

108 Press Items

Docs 126-233

FROM:		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

FORM NO. 241 REPLACES FORM 36-8 WHICH MAY BE USED. (47)

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Ray Said Another In on King Killing, Brother Asserts

From News Dispatches

A brother of James Earl Ray said yesterday that the killer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. told him "I am not the only one in on this."

The statement by John Larry Ray was carried in a story by [illegible] Chait of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. It added new fuel to the speculation that James Earl Ray was part of a conspiracy to assassinate the Negro civil rights leader.

The judge at Ray's trial, Ray's attorney and the prosecuting attorney all have stated that there is no evidence of a conspiracy. But Ray blurted out during his sentencing that he didn't agree with the official theories on a conspiracy.

Charge Pending

The Justice Department still has a conspiracy charge pending against Ray—a charge that was filed primarily to allow the FBI to enter the case and capture Ray. After Ray pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 99 years in prison, the Department announced the "conspiracy allegation is still open."

John Larry Ray said he had talked with his brother in his jail cell in Memphis last Saturday night, two days before he entered the guilty plea. He said Ray "was still trying to figure out what to do—whether to take a plea or insist on going to trial. He wanted to testify."

But John Larry Ray continued, "My brother said there was someone else in on this 'deal' but it had been hushed up by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I didn't press him on what he meant."

In Washington, the FBI had no comment on the article.

A source in the Justice Department was quoted by the Associated Press as saying that the feeling there over Ray's abrupt plea "is one of frustration." The source said that if there had been a trial it might have shed some light on the widespread suspicion around the country that Ray was part of a conspiracy.

One who shares this suspicion is Sen. James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He said his Internal Security subcommittee is investigating the murder and the possibility of a conspiracy.

Another who believes there was a conspiracy is the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, a close friend of Dr. King and the director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's "Operation Breadbasket" in Chicago.

Jackson's Comment

"We were told justice was done by giving a puny, sick white man a 99-year sentence in exchange for the assassination of our black prophet," Mr. Jackson said. "But far from justice, the American judicial system would not allow even an insensitive and unconcerned inquiry into the murder of a world leader."

Rep. Odgen Reid (R-N.Y.) said in a statement placed in yesterday's Congressional record that the court alone should have decided whether Ray was part of a conspiracy to kill Dr. King, "not on the basis of a few public statements by the defense, but in court and by precedures including examination and cross-examination, with a jury committed not to a pre-arranged deal with the judge, but rather to hearing the full story and making an unbiased judgement.""

1969

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WASH POST- 1969

Ray's Remarks in Court On Possible Conspiracy

The official trial transcript shows this exchange between Judge W. Preston Battle and James Earl Ray concerning a possible conspiracy in the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray: Your honor, I would like to say something, too, if I may.

Battle: All right.

Ray: I don't want to change anything than I have said. I don't want to add anything onto it either. The only thing I have to say is I don't exactly accept the theories of Mr. Clark (former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who had discounted the conspiracy theory). In other words, I am not bound to accept these theories of Mr. Clark.

(A whispered conversation followed between Ray and his attorney, Percy Foreman.)

Ray: And Mr. Hoover (FBI director J. Edgar Hoover). I agree to all these stipulations. I am not trying to change anything. I don't want to add something onto it.

Battle: You don't agree with the theories?

Ray: I meant Mr. Canale (Phil Canale, the prosecutor), Mr. Thornton (unknown to reporters), Mr. Ramsey Clark. I mean on the conspiracy thing. I don't want to add something onto it which I haven't agreed to in the past.

47.

3 MONTHS OF MANEUVERING

How Agreement Was Reached On Ray's Plea

By JERRY LIPSON
Special to The Star

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Defense and prosecution lawyers agreed to the guilty plea that sent James Earl Ray to prison for 99 years for entirely opposite reasons.

The plea, which cut short what was expected to be an intensely dramatic trial, climaxed three months of intricate legal maneuvering and investigation.

Defense attorneys sought the compromise, saying privately that they believed the case against Ray was so overwhelming he would be convicted and [illegible] despite the general national trend against capital punishment.

The prosecution felt that even with their airtight case, Ray would escape the chair precisely because of this trend. Tennessee hasn't had an execution in 10 years.

First Probe

The first probe toward a guilty plea began Dec. 12 when Shelby County Public Defender Hugh Stanton Sr. was appointed to assist Texas lawyer Percy Foreman in Ray's defense.

"He came back to my office and talked about the case for two or three hours. I said it looked like this guy did it, and maybe we ought to try for a plea," Stanton recalled in an interview yesterday.

The idea of such a move had already occurred to Foreman, Stanton said, adding that Foreman answered, "You'll never be able to plead this case (guilty). There's too damn much publicity."

Evidence Gathered

Foreman was convinced no Memphis prosecutor would forego the national attention sure to be focused on a full-scale trial. But, Stanton said, "he told me to see what I could do."

Meanwhile, the Houston attorney told Stanton to interview as many witnesses as possible, to see what the evidence was.

Stanton contacted county Atty. Gen. Phil M. Canale, who promised to discuss a guilty plea with his chief lieutenants. But Canale was noncommittal.

A few weeks later, Stanton learned that Canale would accept a plea, but with two provisos: Ray must take the 99-year sentence, and the request for a guilty plea must come from the defense.

Canale "couldn't afford to be in a position of offering a deal because of all this publicity," Stanton said.

The day after Christmas, the white-haired Memphis lawyer telephoned Foreman in Houston with the news. But Foreman was skeptical that Ray would go along.

When he first mentioned the subject to his hard-bitten client, Ray replied, "Mr. Foreman, you don't know the facts. I'd rather take my chances with a trial."

'Rather Take My Chances'

However, two full-time investigators assigned to the defense by Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle, who was scheduled to hear the Ray case, were interviewing nearly 40 witnesses in the Memphis area.

"We quickly established that all of this so-called favorable testimony (about a conspiracy and another killer) just didn't exist," Stanton said.

Referring to early reports of a white man in some bushes below the rooming house where Ray lay in ambush for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Stanton said:

"A man would have to jump a 10-foot wall to get to the street from those bushes. That would be rather awkward."

An early theory that the death rifle with Ray's prints on it may have been conveniently placed for finding also evaporated when it came out that with the rifle were numerous items Ray obviously had not intended to leave behind, such as clothing and beer cans.

Foreman began to agree with prosecution conclusions that the incriminating items, loosely wrapped in a green bedspread, had been dumped in a doorway in a moment of panic, when Ray spotted police on the street as he dashed from the flop house across from King's motel.

Deadly Case Building

Supporters of a conspiracy theory had asked why Ray first had purchased a Winchester 243 rifle in a Birmingham sporting goods store March 29, then a day later telephoned asking to exchange it for the more powerful 30.06 rifle used to kill King.

But investigators were able to establish that the Winchester that Ray had bought was defective and would not fire because of metallic deposits on the bolt.

Through January and early February, Foreman told Ray additional details of the deadly case Canale's team was building against him.

Stanton said he had concluded that "Ray was lucky to get away by the skin of his teeth."

With the trial due to begin March 3, time was running short, and on Feb. 14, Foreman won a request to delay the hearing until April 7.

A week later, about Feb. 21, Foreman shambled into Canale's third-floor office and formally offered a plea of guilty to murder.

Foreman carried with him a letter, signed by Ray, authorizing him to seek the plea.

Summary of Slaying

Deputy Atty. Gen. James Beasley began writing a 5,950 word summary of the state's evidence linking Ray to the slaying, to which the defense would have to agree.

Four days later, Beasley—who had interviewed witnesses from Los Angeles to Lisbon—handed the summary to Foreman.

"Two or three days later," Canale recalled, Foreman returned with Ray's approval and for insurance, that of Ray's brothers, John and Jerry.

Then other interested parties, such as the Justice Department and people close to King, were told of the impending move, and on March 7, Foreman went before Judge Battle to request last Monday's special hearing.

Better Source Alive

However, the scenario wasn't quite ready for the finale. As the hearing neared, Ray developed second thoughts and fears rippled through the courthouse that he would scuttle the deal.

Foreman spent 2½ hours with Ray last Sunday going over the stipulations which detailed the extent of the state's case against him.

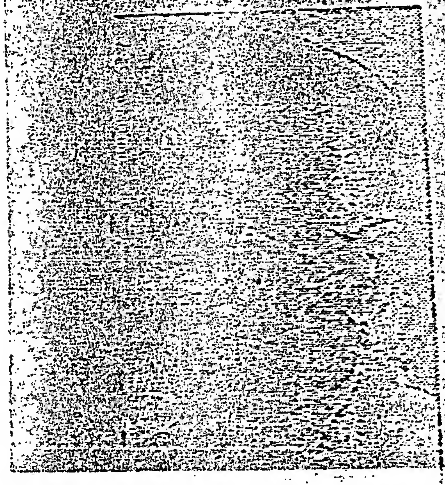
A 90-minute session with Canale that evening tied up any la dangling thread—and Ray was ready for the 220 mile drive to the red brick Tennessee state prison at Nashville.

Canale later summed up why he had accepted the plea: "In the first place, the state has never insisted on trying a capital case when the defendant has offered to plead guilty and accept maximum confinement."

Ray will not be eligible for parole hearing until 1998, when he'll be 71. Had a jury imposed a life term, he could be eligible for a parole in only 12½ years—in 1981.

Canale said the state has not concluded categorically that Ray was a lone killer, only that it has no evidence "at this time that he was part of a conspiracy."

Obviously if Ray was part of a plot, Ray alive is a better source for later information than if he were dead.


JAMES EARL RAY

THE SUNDAY STAR
Washington, D. C., March 16, 1969

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Pickup Order In King Killing Voided by FBI

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The FBI issued, then withdrew, a pickup order for Eric Starvo Galt, a Birmingham, Ala., white man, as the widescale investigation of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., entered its second week.

The bulletin distributed on the statewide police teletype network in Florida last night said Galt was driving a white Mustang. Witnesses in Memphis told investigators earlier they saw a man in a white Mustang drive away from the rooming house from which King was shot April 4.

At about the same time the pickup order was sent in Florida, federal agents in Atlanta impounded a white Mustang that had been parked since last Friday at a public housing project near the Georgia state capitol.

Labeled a Mistake

The message, withdrawn with the explanation that it was released by mistake, described Galt as a white male, 36 years old, about 5-foot-11 and 175 pounds with blue eyes and brown hair.

This roughly matched the description circulated by federal authorities the night of King's slaying.

The Florida teletype message said Galt was last seen driving a white 1966 Mustang hardtop, Alabama license 1-93903. Birmingham police said this tag had been issued to Eric S. Galt, 2608 Highland Ave., Birmingham.

Stickers in Spanish

In Atlanta, the residents who first told police about the abandoned white Mustang said the car bore the same Alabama license as given out by the FBI and bore two stickers which said "Tourista." Earlier reports indicated the investigation had spread to Mexico.

A Birmingham newspaper, the Post-Herald, said residents of the rooming house confirmed they had been questioned by the FBI. It added the residents reported they had not seen Galt for about three months and could not recall what type car he owned.

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WP 21 MAY 69

Ray Threatened

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Harry S. Avery, State Commissioner of Corrections, says prisoners in the State penitentiary have threatened to kill James Earl Ray, the admitted murderer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Avery said word of the threat came in a telephone call and "had a lot to do" with his decision to keep Ray in a maximum security cell after his normal six-week stay, which was finished at the end of April. Avery said he was told Ray would be killed if he was ever taken from maximum security.

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Ray Amends Suit

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Attorneys for James Earl Ray, serving a 99-year sentence for the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., filed an amended suit that charges Ray's civil rights were violated by two lawyers and a writer.

The suit was filed in U.S. District Court by Ray's latest lawyers, Robert W. Hill Jr. and J. B. Stoner.

Named as defendants were Arthur Hanes, the first lawyer to take the case; Percy Foreman, who replaced Hanes and represented Ray when the guilty plea was entered, and William Bradford Huie, Ray's biographer.

staff reports and news dispatches

WASH POST
23 MAY 69

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7 Ray Trial Contempt Cases Dropped

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 23 (AP)—The judge who will hear James Earl Ray's bid for a new trial in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dismissed contempt of court charges against seven persons today in connection with the Ray case.

Ray entered a guilty plea March 10 in the murder of King and was sentenced to 99 years in prison by Judge W. Preston Battle.

Judge Arthur Faquin, who took over after Battle's death, acted at the recommendation of a special bar association committee.

The committee had recommended that, because of Battle's death, four persons whom Battle had held in contempt should either be granted new trials or the charges should be dismissed.

The four were Arthur J. Hanes, Ray's first attorney; Renfro T. Hays, a private investigator, and two Memphis newspaper reporters, Charles Edmundson of The Commercial Appeal, and Roy Hamilton of the Memphis Press-Scimitar.

The committee had recommended contempt proceedings against the three others. They were George Bonebrake, an FBI firearms expert; author William Bradford Huie and the Rev. James Bevel, a top of cial of the Southern Christia Leadership Conference.

Ray, bound in chains and e corted by 25 armed guards an 11-car police caravan, w returned Thursday to th Shelby County Jail cell whe he lived from last July unt he entered the state pris March 11.

Judge Faquin will hea Ray's appeal for a new tri Monday.

WP 24 MAY 69

United Press International

James Earl Ray, escorted by two Tennessee patrolmen, is led from the state prison in Nashville for a trip to Memphis and a hearing into his conviction for murdering of Dr. Martn Luther King. Ray seeks a new trial.

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55.

Ray Loses Bid For New Trial

By Paul W. Valentine

Washington Post Staff Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 26—Jame Earl Ray, whose fate has been clouded by the death of the judge in his case, lost a bid today for a new trial in the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Criminal Court Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr. said today Ray had "knowingly, voluntarily and intelligently" pleaded guilty.

His attorneys said they will appeal the denial by Judge Faquin, sucessor to the late Judge W. Preston Battle.

Ray, 41, wearing a drab jacket and pale yellow tie, was pale and unsmiling throughout the three-hour hearing. He did not testify. He was whisked from the courtroom and readied for his return to the State Penitentiary in Nashville.

Faquin, 44, granted the prosecution's motion to deny Ray a hearing on the new trial issue. He said Ray waived his rights to appeal or new trial last March 10 when Judge Battle sentenced him to 99 years imprisonment in exchange for the guilty plea to the 1968 killing.

Battle died March 31 of a heart attack, five days after Ray had petitioned him for a new trial. Tennessee law provides that new trial motions pending before deceased judges must be granted automatically.

Prosecutor Jesse Clyde Mason argued today, however, that the March 10 proceeding was not, technically speaking, a trial but a guilty-plea hearing in which there was no dispute over the facts. Since there was no original trial, there can be no motion for a "new" trial, he said.

Judge Faquin agreed, noting that a guilty plea amounts to a "judgment by confession," from which there is no appeal or review under common law.

Throughout the hearing, Ray, under heavy guard, rarely talked with his attorneys, J. B Stoner of Savannah, Ga., Robert J. Hill Jr., of Chattanooga Tenn., and Richard J. Ryan, of Memphis, Tenn.

Stoner, 44, an outspoken segregationist, has represented Klu Klux Klansmen in the past and ran for U.S. Vice President in 1964 on the ultra-right National States Rights Party ticket.

Behind Ray's unsuccessful move today is his contention that his legal interests were subverted by the financial interests of free-lance writer William Bradford Huie and the two defense attorneys earlier assigned to Ray's case.

Ray has charged that attorney Percy Foreman persuaded him to plead guilty in order to avoid a full trial because a trial would have revealed the details of the case to the public and denied Huie his exclusive access to the Ray story.

Ray submitted copies of contracts and letters between Foreman, himself and Arthur Hanes Sr., Birmingham, Ala., attorney who also represented Ray earlier. The documents showed that Hanes had been paid at least $30,000 and that Foreman demanded a $150,000 fee, much of it from book and magazine firms for which Huie was writing.

Today, Ray's new lawyers unexpectedly withdrew the Foreman-Hanes allegations from the new trial motion but said they may reinsert them later.

Today's hearing turned instead on legal technicalities. The defense maintained that Ray's March 10 guilty plea was defective because state prosecutors failed to sign his waiver of rights and because Ray did not respond to one of Judge Battle's questions about whether he was "pressured" into pleading guilty.

Faquin dismissed the arguments, noting that prosecutors are not required to sign the waiver and that even if Ray failed to answer one uestion, he had denied being "pressured" in other questions.

A transcript of the disputed portion shows that Judge Battle asked two questions in a row before Ray answered:

Battle: "Has anything besides this sentence of 99 years been promised to get you to plead guilty? Has anything else been promised you?"

Ray: "No."

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27 MAY 69

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56.

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Washington Post Staff Writer

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Died of Heart Attack

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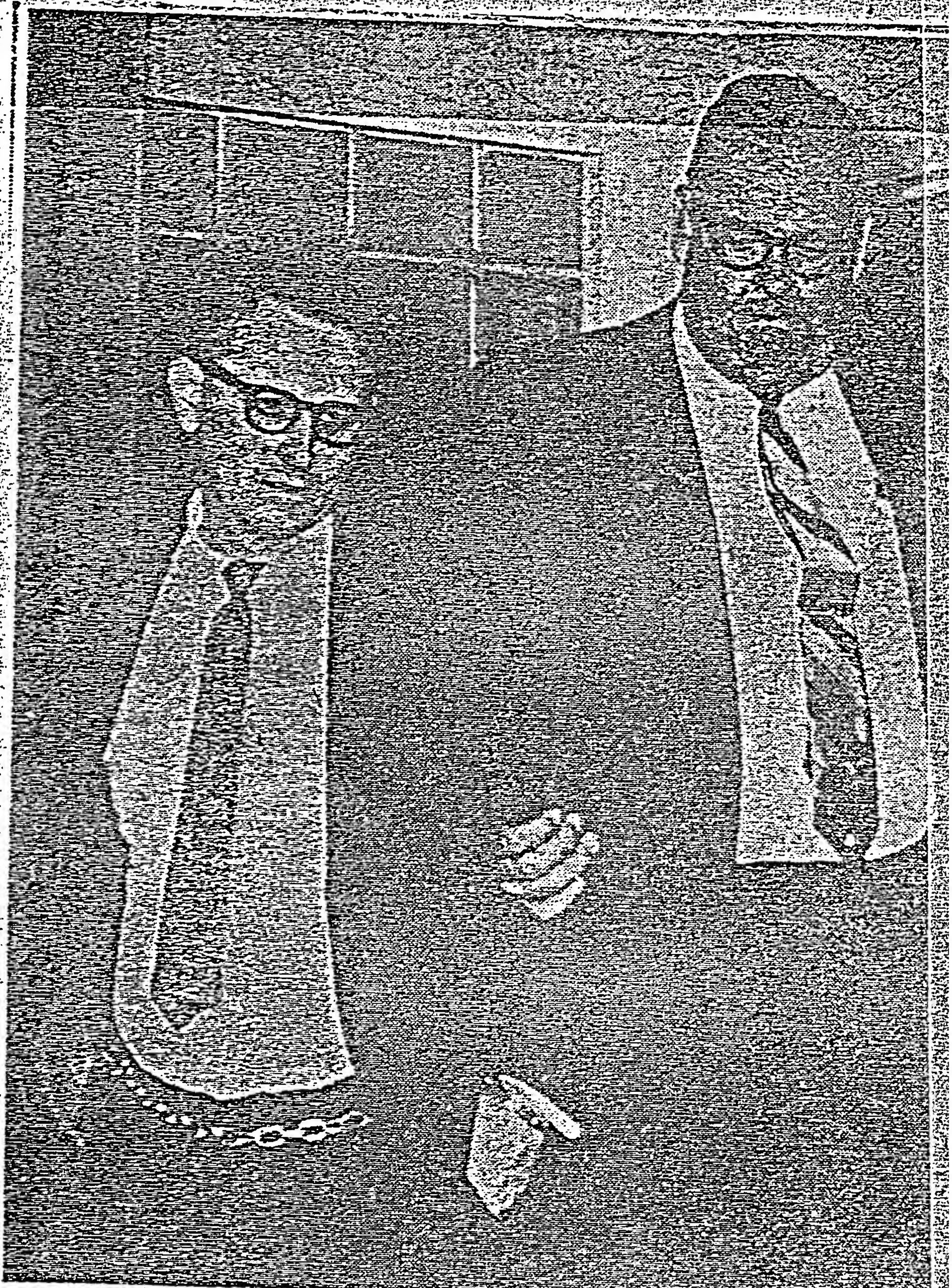
Judge Faquin agreed, noting that a guilty plea amounts to a "judgment by confession," from which there is no appeal or review under common law.

Throughout the hearing, Ray, under heavy guard, rarely talked with his attorneys, J. B. Stoner of Savannah, Ga., Robert J. Hill Jr., of Chattanooga, Tenn., and Richard J. Ryan, of Memphis, Tenn.



WASH POST - 26 MAY 69

United Press International

James Earl Ray is led back into the Tennessee State Prison in Nashville after he was denied an appeal for a new trial for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

Outspoken Segregationist

Stoner, 44, an outspoken segregationist, has represented Klu Klux Klansmen in the past and ran for U.S. Vice President in 1964 on the ultra-right National States Rights Party ticket.

Behind Ray's unsuccessful move today is his contention that his legal interests were subverted by the financial interests of free-lance writer William Bradford Huie and the two defense attorneys earlier assigned to Ray's case.

Ray has charged that attorney Percy Foreman persuaded him to plead guilty in order to avoid a full trial because a trial would have revealed the details of the case to the public and denied Huie his exclusive access to the Ray story.

Ray submitted copies of contracts and letters between Foreman, himself and Arthur Hanes Sr., Birmingham, Ala., attorney who also represented Ray earlier. The documents showed that Hanes had been paid at least $30,000 and that Foreman demanded a $150,000 fee, much of it from book and magazine firms for which Huie was writing.

Today, Ray's new lawyers unexpectedly withdrew the Foreman-Hanes allegations from the new trial motion but said they may reinsert them later.

Legal Technicalities

Today's hearing turned instead on legal technicalities. The defense maintained that Ray's March 10 guilty plea was defective because state prosecutors failed to sign his waiver of rights and because Ray did not respond to one of Judge Battle's questions about whether he was "pressured" into pleading guilty.

Faquin dismissed the arguments, noting that prosecutors are not required to sign the waiver and that even if Ray failed to answer one question, he had denied being "pressured" in other questions.

A transcript of the disputed portion shows that Judge Battle asked two questions in a row before Ray answered:

Battle: "Has anything besides this sentence of 99 years been promised to get you to plead guilty? Has anything else been promised you?"

Ray: "No."

57.

King Death Probed

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A brother of the man convicted of killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. says FBI agents questioned him about whether a conspiracy was involved in the assassination of the civil rights leader.

Jerry Ray, younger brother of admitted assassin James Earl Ray, said men identifying themselves as FBI agents approached him at the jail where he was visiting his brother.

The elder Ray, who pleaded guilty March 10 to King's death and was sentenced to 99 years, will appear at a hearing Monday on his motion for a new trial.

"I didn't tell them anything," Jerry Ray said he told the agents on advice of an attorney. "They asked a question on the conspiracy statement. I wouldn't answer it and they threatened to bring me before a Federal grand jury. They said if I didn't talk to them, I would be held in contempt."

Investigators have maintained that a conspiracy was not involved in King's death.

Asked about the younger Ray's report, Special Agent Robert G. Jensen, Memphis FBI district chief, confirmed that his men questioned Jerry Ray but would not comment on his charge of threats. "We're making inquiries all the time into all sorts of things," he said.

WASH POST
25 MAY 1969

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

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Ray Is Refused Review of Denial Of a New Trial

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., July 15 (AP)—The Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals refused today to review denial by a Memphis judge of a new murder trial for James Earl Ray on the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Presiding Judge Mark A. Walker of Covington announced the court's decision after it had deliberated the matter less than four hours. Defense Attorney J. B. Stoner of Savannah, Ga., said the ruling will be appealed to the State Supreme Court.

Ray pleaded guilty in Memphis March 10 to the slaying last year of Dr. King, and was sentenced by Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle to 99 years in state prison. In seeking a new trial, Ray claimed he was pressured by his former lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex., into entering the guilty plea. Foreman denied the charge.

WASH POST
16 JULY 69

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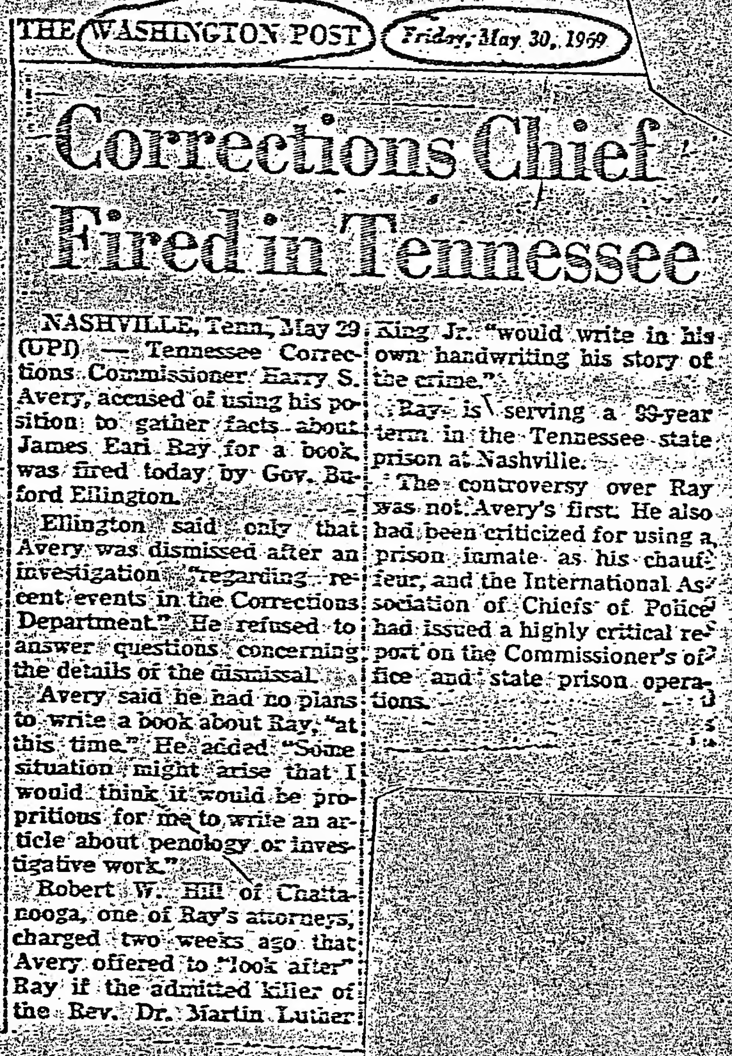
Date 19 AUG 1976

59.



THE WASHINGTON POST Friday, May 30, 1969

Corrections Chief Fired in Tennessee

NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 29 (UPI) — Tennessee Corrections Commissioner Harry S. Avery, accused of using his position to gather facts about James Earl Ray for a book, was fired today by Gov. Buford Ellington.

Ellington said only that Avery was dismissed after an investigation "regarding recent events in the Corrections Department." He refused to answer questions concerning the details of the dismissal.

Avery said he had no plans to write a book about Ray, "at this time." He added "Some situation might arise that I would think it would be propitious for me to write an article about penology or investigative work."

Robert W. Hill of Chattanooga, one of Ray's attorneys, charged two weeks ago that Avery offered to "look after" Ray if the admitted killer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "would write in his own handwriting his story of the crime."

Ray is serving a 99-year term in the Tennessee state prison at Nashville.

The controversy over Ray was not Avery's first. He also had been criticized for using a prison inmate as his chauffeur, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police had issued a highly critical report on the Commissioner's office and state prison operations.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

60.

The Washington Post
SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 1969
NATIONAL NEWS
G1

Underpaid by Today's Standards

Ray Alone Still Talks of a Plot

By Paul W. Valentine
Washington Post Staff Writer

The only person directly tied to the investigation of the James Earl Ray case who still insists there was a conspiracy to kill the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is James Earl Ray himself.

And Ray — convicted thief, forger, prison escapee, user of countless aliases and possessor of an elaborate psychiatric record — has what may charitably be called a credibility problem.

If indeed he was one of several conspirators in a plot to assassinate Dr. King, he was inefficient and underpaid by contemporary standards.

In almost 14 months of freedom from April 23, 1967, when he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary, until his arrest two months after Dr. King's murder on April 4, 1968, Ray spent at most $15,000. Many estimates are $10,000 — the income of a middle echelon Government clerk, not that of a free-wheeling assassin.

Did Some Traveling

He generally lived in cheap, dingy rooming houses, paying $2.50 a week (meals included) and shared his bathroom with bums and pensioners.

He traveled a lot, but 93 per cent of the time he was nowhere near Dr. King. He did not buy the assassination weapon — a 30.06 Remington pump rifle — until five days before Dr. King was killed. Before that, all he had was a .38 caliber snub nose revolver — not exactly a popular weapon among assassins who intend to get away.

JAMES EARL RAY
... raises questions

Freelance writer William Bradford Huie who, as Ray's exclusive biographer, is supposed to be the most knowledgeable person about the details of the alleged plot, could not give the grand jury in Memphis the name of one conspirator.

Ray himself has been very vague. He has never specified names, places or dates of any known consequence. His credibility suffered even more recently when, in almost simultaneous court actions, he pleaded guilty to murdering Dr. King but denied owning the murder weapon in a related civil suit.

Causes for Doubt

These and other factors have led local and Federal investigators to discount the conspiracy theory — for the moment. They all acknowledge it is possible new evidence could pop to the surface any time. But for the moment, there is not much.

A full trial of the case, contrary to what some critics feel, would not have revealed much more than what prosecutors presented at the guilty plea hearing last Monday. Neither prosecution nor defense appeared ready to develop a conspiracy theory.

Even the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, Dr. King's successor as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, says he has no specific reason to claim a conspiracy.

In a recent private talk, he acknowledged that his public utterances about a conspiracy stemmed, not from suspicion of a specific plot but from his generalized concept of longterm historical and sociological forces causing racial conflict in America. "White American racism is the conspiracy in this case," he said.

General Hatred

Memphis prosecutors, who have had access to the massive investigative files of the FBI, see Ray as a man who had a general hatred of Negroes and at best an unspecific and unstructured desire to harm Dr. King.

He did not "stalk" Dr. King in any calculated way (until the last few days). Rather, he rambled about the United States, Canada and Mexico during the 14 months after his prison escape, bent on his own peculiar interests (dancing lessons, bartending school, etc.), periodically showing up in the same general vicinity as Dr. King but with no apparent specific intent to kill him.

In his own way, Ray may genuinely have thought other people were contributing financially to his general desire to harm Dr. King. It is likely, for example, that he received money for smuggling drugs and jewelry from Canada and Mexico and considered these payments as specific contributions to sustain his own privately conceived effort in seeking out Dr. King.

He may even have braggingly told his smuggling contacts that he was considering killing Dr. King and that they were helping him.

See RAY, G5, Col. 1

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Date 19 AUG 1976

16 MAR 1969

Ray Is Alone In Insisting Plot Existed

RAY, From G1

While this is a long way from a formal conspiracy, prosecutors say this explains how Ray may have rationalized the conspiracy concept which, as it gained momentum in his mind, became indispensable in his relationship with author Huie and Huie's payment of more than $30,000 to help pay lawyers' fees.

If one assumes for the moment that there was indeed a conspiracy and the Government is now actively suppressing it, then one must ask what would motivate the Government to do so.

What good in political or social terms would come of failing to tell the Nation that a bunch of rednecks or black extremists plotted Dr. King's death?

It seems fairly elementary that most of the Nation—not only the Negro community and the civil rights movement but the great middle American population of moderates—would be more readily satisfied to have a public revelation of a conspiracy than go on wondering and doubting as they are doing now.

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who was the chief policymaker during the Ray investigation, is enough of a psychologist to know that the supression of conspiracy evidence would have been far more damaging than its revelation.

No Credible Evidence

The reality appears to be that the Government simply had no credible evidence of a conspiracy. Officials from Clark and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to Memphis Chief Prosecutor Phil Canale repeatedly announced that they had none. They did this knowing full well their statements would be met with cries of "cover up" and "sell out." But they had no choice.

Memphis prosecutors envision Ray as a troubled man who, with no clear mandate from a conspriatorial group, was not commited to the idea of killing Dr. King in any specific sense until the last few days before April 4, 1953.

He did not purchase the assassination rifle until March 30. He came to Memphis April 3, staying overnight at the Rebel Motel, a good five miles from the Lorraine Motel where Dr. King was staying.

It did not take an inside tipster or a conspiratorial policeman to tell Ray that Dr. King was at the Lorraine. It was splattered all over the morning and evening newspapers in Memphis. The papers noted that Dr. King had been staying in room 306 at the Lorraine on Mulberry Street for several days while he was in town to support a garbage collectors' strike there.

From that point, it was relatively easy for Ray to case the area, locate a rooming house with a window overlooking the Lorraine Motel parking area and rent a room under the alias John Willard.

He moved into the room around 3:30 p.m. on April 4. At about 5:30 p.m., he entered the communal bathroom of the rooming house whose windows offered a better view of the Lorraine, locked himself inside and waited.

At 6:01 p.m., Dr. King came into his view on the second-floor balcony of the motel. He stood about [illegible] yards from Ray in the bathroom. It was an easy shot with the telescopic sight mounted on the 30.06 Remington.

With the sound of the rifle shot, everyone including the police in the area focused attention on the motel balcony and parking lot. Ray, on the other hand, was going away from the scene. He dropped his rifle—which was bundled in a heavy bedspread—in the street a block away and fled in his white Mustang car.

People simply were not noticing persons in white Mustangs driving the streets of Memphis at that moment. Nevertheless, police learned from passersby that a white man was seen leaving the area in a Mustang and an alert went out for such a car.

During the evening, Memphis policemen and Tennessee Highway Patrolmen stopped dozens of white Mustangs and searched them carefully. They probably even stopped Ray. He had no weapon with him and his car and registration—listed in the name of Eric Starvo Galt—were perfectly in order. He passed through and fled to Atlanta.

Funds for Trip

With the proceeds from smuggling, plus one or two robberies, Ray had enough to go to Toronto, Canada. There, he employed a trick he had learned through the prison grapevine in Missouri and obtained a phony Canadian passport by applying by mail for the birth certificate of a real person—Ramon George Sneyd—whose name he simply selected from the Toronto telephone directory.

With the birth certificate in hand, he got the passport, then proceeded to England

Wash Post 16 MAR 197

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WP 27 JUN 69

Court Grants Ray Review Of His Trial

COVINGTON, Tenn., June 26 (UPI) —Chief Judge Mark A. Walker of the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals has granted a petition submitted to him Wednesday by attorneys for James Earl Ray to have the court review the trial record in Ray's conviction for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Appeals Court will rule July 15 in Knoxville on whether it should consider an appeal by Ray for a new trial.

The petition claims that Judgt Arthur C. Faquin erred in granting a state request to quash a defense motion for a new trial at a hearing in Memphis May 26. The petition says Faquin should have allowed Ray a new trial on the grounds that presiding Judge W. Preston Battle died before ruling on a new trial motion.

WASH. POST

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62.

WP 20 JUN 69

Order Lets Ray Lawyer Communicate in Person

NASHVILLE, Tenn., June 19 (UPI) — An attorney for James Earl Ray obtained a Federal court order Wednesday directing state prison officials to permit him to communicate with Ray in person rather than by telephone.

Attorney Robert W. Hill Jr. of Chattanooga charged Ray is convinced the prison phones are bugged and that all statements he makes to Hill are recorded for use by the state.

Under the telephone system, which had been used only once, Ray is placed in a soundproof room and Hill must talk with him by telephone with a heavy glass partition separating them.

U.S. District Judge William E. Miller ordered a U.S. marshal to serve an order on the state prison warden and corrections commissioner directing them to permit Hill access to his client within the same room or office.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
19 AUG 1976
Date

69.

Ray Is Granted Review Of Record at His Trial

COVINGTON, Tenn., June 26 (UPI) —Chief Judge Mark A. Walker of the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals has granted a petition submitted to him Wednesday by attorneys for James Earl Ray to have the court review the trial record in Ray's conviction for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Appeals Court will rule July 15 in Knoxville on whether it should consider an appeal by Ray for a new trial.

The petition claims that Judge Arthur C. Faquin erred in granting a state request to quash a defense motion for a new trial at a hearing in Memphis May 26. The petition says Faquin should have allowed Ray a new trial on the grounds that presiding Judge W. Preston Battle died before ruling on a new trial motion.

WASH POST 26 JUNE 69

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WASHINGTON STAR

4 MAY 1968

MAX LERNER

Air of Conspiracy Envelops Dr. King's Slaying

Consider the man called James Earl Ray, who also seems to have used a number of other names, among them Eric Starvo Galt, and is now the target of a vast manhunt. When Martin Luther King was killed, the first widespread impulse — which I shared with others — was to assume the bullet had been governed by the assassin's passion of racist hatred. I wrote that the man, like the act, had been "sick, sick." But if Ray is in fact the man who pulled the trigger — and obviously that must remain an "if" until all the evidence is in — the theory of a single hate-governed assassin may not hold up.

Another theory, which cannot be ignored and is gaining some credence, is that it was a "contract job," much like any gangland murder, with some petty criminal punk serving as the gunman, but also with precise planning for the murder and getaway. This does not rule out racist hatred on the part of the gunman himself, who may have lent himself more readily to the killing because it jibed with his own twisted broodings about how to set the world right. But it puts the focus not only on the killer but on whatever other men used him.

From this angle of vision many of the details now emerging about Ray — his criminal convictions, his jail term and escape, his travels, his bank account, his purchases and expenditures — seem to fall into a meaningful pattern. The trail will probably cool and warm again a number of times before the FBI catches up with him — if it ever does. For Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark's early description of the killer as "a lone man on the run" may no longer be true.

It seems probable now that he was not a lone man, and he may no longer be on the run. If, in fact, there were others who used him for their purposes, his capture now would be intolerable to them, and the indicated course for them would be to kill him before he can be caught. If they are not able to — and that, too, is possible — his capture should uncover quite a story.

Inevitably, of course, one thinks of another killer in another assassination — that of John Kennedy — which has not been cleared up in the minds of many people and may never be wholly resolved. There is even the weird coincidence in the evidence that Galt-Ray made one or several trips to New Orleans, which awakens memories of Lee Harvey Oswald's stay in that city, and of the erratic efforts of Jim Garrison to prove a New Orleans conspiracy using Oswald as a "patsy" and to hang it on the CIA and the FBI.

It all adds up to a climate of conspiracy along with the climate of hate. It is well to be on our guard against both. There is hot violence and there is cold violence — the kind that springs out of massive anger and the kind that comes from calculated plan. If one had to choose, it is better to strike out from anger than to move in cold blood. One recalls William Blake's sentence: "The tigers of wrath are wiser than the horses of instruction." I should deny any real wisdom to the violence that comes out of wrath, as against the effort of reason, but I certainly prefer the wrath to the cold conspiracy.

The day of the loner is probably passing, whether we think of the creative adventurist loner or the lonely assassin. For many things that were once done by individuals, we carry over from the Army today the term "Operation." Even political leadership involves a "team."

Yet it would be folly to carry this to the point of believing that nothing disastrous ever happens except as the result of a conspiracy. The fact is that one of the strongest elements in the climate of violence today is the compulsion to believe that we are surrounded by conspiracies.

This is the paranoid view of life—that nothing happens to us either by chance or through our own deserts, but only as the result of a planned operation by our enemies. Believing there is an enemy plot against him and his group, the paranoid personality strikes out—whether in hot or cold blood — to foil it. Thereby he adds to the climate of violence, and the two climates—of violence and conspiracy—are fused.

Someday we may discover what prompted King's killer—whether it was the wrathful violence of a True Believer or the cold anger of violence used as an instrument for some smoldering paranoid resentment deep within. In either case it is essential that the assassin be tracked down, not for the sake of vengeance, but because we need to know what moves in the minds of distorted men before we can ever achieve even a measure of reason.

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65.

CARL T. ROWAN

WS MAY 29 1968

Trail of King's Killer Leading to Dead End

The disappearance of the slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King becomes more eerie and revolting with every passing day.

The FBI has not come up with a single meaningful trace of James Earl Ray, the number one suspect, since I revealed 21 days ago that the investigation had taken on international implications.

Even with $100,000 or so of reward money lying around, the FBI hasn't so much as a hot tip or a rumor worth pursuing with hope.

In my earlier column, I deliberately did not reveal that a massive dragnet had been set up in Mexico. It was there that Ray had met with some characters who led FBI and other intelligence agents to suspect involvement of a foreign power. But investigators did not want the suspect tipped off as to the intensity of the search south of the border.

But it has revealed nothing.

"We've covered Mexico, Canada, and the United States like a blanket," one high-level source tells me. "If Ray were alive in any of these places, I can't conceive of our not locating him by now."

Thus, the men who were clinging doggedly to the theory that King's killer was a berserk loner have now swung over to the belief that a hired killer planned the murder and the escape meticulously. But was it Ray—or were the seemingly clumsy clues left behind just decoys? And who did the hiring?

The truth is that the FBI has not located a single trace of Ray since he supposedly abandoned his white Mustang in Atlanta on April 5, the day after the Nobel Prize-winning Negro clergyman was slain in a Memphis, Tenn., motel. In fact, the FBI does not really have solid evidence that it was Ray who abandoned the car in Atlanta.

But the massive investigation has turned up more information about Ray and his family. The most significant—and most galling in some Washington circles — is that Ray was peddling dope while in prison in Missouri State Penitentiary from 1960 to April 1967.

As the magnitude of Ray's narcotics peddling has been revealed, top law enforcement officers here have stared aghast at the evidence that guards in most prisons are so easily bribed into sending almost anything into or out of a prison.

Some investigators have concluded that our penal system is rotten to the core, and they have sent screams to the top of our government that it is high time someone planned a complete overhaul.

A serious question arises now as to how long the FBI can, or will, continue a concentrated search for Dr. King's killer. Already, student turmoil on scores of campuses has dictated the shifting of considerable manpower to the watching of these activities.

There are some worrisome connections between rioters on the various campuses. For example, one of the leaders of the Columbia University demonstrations recently showed up at American University here, trying to agitate students into putting some "muscle" into their protest.

So this confluence of demands on the time of the agents time has led even some FBI personnel to echo earlier pessimistic predictions that "they'll never catch Dr. King's killer."

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66.

THE PRESS

REPORTING

The Price of James Earl Ray

William Bradford Huie boasts of "one distinction. I guess I've paid more money to more murderers than any reporter in history." Freelancer Huie has other distinctions as well, but it is true that he uses money, lavishly if necessary, to get his story. Nobody was ever convicted for the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Mississippi in 1955, but Huie paid enough to get a complete account of the crime for *Look* magazine. Three years ago, Huie disclosed the facts in the case of the murder of the three civil rights workers in Neshoba County, Miss. After a few midnight meetings with greedy Ku Klux Klan informers, he reconstructed the event for the New York Herald Tribune.

Once again, Huie has shown that money in the right hands pays off. Under the cautious eye of Attorney Arthur Hanes, James Earl Ray, the accused killer of Martin Luther King Jr., is telling his life story to Huie. In exchange, Huie is financing Ray's defense. So far, Huie has not been permitted to see Ray, but he has received some 20,000 handwritten words, which he is exhaustively checking out. Ray may or may not be involved, but Huie has become convinced that a conspiracy led to the murder. Huie plans to publish one article before Ray's trial next November, then follow up with a book. "People don't like this way of operating," says Huie. "I don't like it much either. But I don't know any other way to get the truth."

Capricious Execution. Besides money, Huie makes use of a fierce persistence and an equally intense passion for the underdog. He is an aggressive, blunt-spoken reporter who makes it clear that no one is going to put anything over on him. When he does business with the sordid characters who sell him stories, he tells them: "One damn lie and the whole deal is off." And few facts in Huie's exposés have ever been disproved.

It took five years of digging, but he finally unearthed the details in the case of the only U.S. serviceman executed for desertion in World War II. His book, *The Execution of Private Slovik*, was a fascinating account of how the military capriciously singled out this private, among thousands of deserters, to serve as an example. Then they thought better of it and hushed up the whole affair. Equally compelling was *The Hiroshima Pilot*, in which Huie demolished the myth that B-29 Commander Claude Eatherly remorsefully turned to a life of crime after dropping the atom bomb on Hiroshima. Eatherly, Huie showed, had not even flown in the mission over Hiroshima, and his guilt feelings developed years later under the encouragement of ban-the-bomb propagandists.

In recent years, Huie has been preoccupied with civil rights. As an eighth-generation Southerner, he feels an obligation toward Negroes, and he wants to be proud of his home region. After many years of traveling, he now lives where he was born, in Hartselle, a town of 8,000 in north central Alabama. "There is a decency about people here," he says. He was happy with the racial progress that was being made in Alabama until George Wallace became Governor. "I suppose the reason I keep involved is that I resent Wallace's effort to turn back the clock."

JIM DONALDSON—LEVITON-ATLANTA

HUIE (RIGHT) & RAY'S ATTORNEY
Passion, persistence and self-defense.

To flaunt that attitude in Alabama is asking for trouble, so Huie takes precautions. He and his wife Ruth live in a house that is designed for self-defense. Every room has an outside exit. Spotlights have been placed on the roof, on the patio, on the lawn. Many of them can be turned on at Huie's bedside. "There are no shadows around this house at night," he says. The house is also equipped with three Remington riot guns, one for the use of guests. Huie, a crack shot, also has a riot gun fastened to the front seat of his car. "I try to be prudent, remembering how Medgar Evers was murdered," he says, referring to the Mississippi civil rights leader who was shot in the back while returning home one night.

After Huie denounced Wallace on a lecture tour in 1964, the Governor went on television to tongue-lash the writer. Getting the message, racists made abusive phone calls. For four nights, a procession of cars drove slowly around his block while Huie stood by the window with his riot gun. In July, when a cross was burned on his lawn, he wired Governor Albert Brewer, pointing out that since Wallace is given state protection, his enemies should have it too. Brewer agreed to give him what he wanted, and now the local police provide frequent patrolling.

Huie knows that the Ray assignment is a possibly dangerous one. He hopes it will be his last. He would prefer to write novels now that at 57, he feels time is growing short. He has already written five, most recently, *The Klansman*, a powerful portrait of a Southern sheriff who is pulled one way by the Klan, the other way by his better instincts; the Klan wins. Huie also hopes that movies will be made of some of his civil rights books. "One of the great tragedies is that we've never had realistic films about race hatred in the U.S.," he says. At the moment, a small studio is making preparations to film Huie's book about the Neshoba murders, *Three Lives for Mississippi*. Before the film could be made, however, Huie once again had to go through the distasteful experience of shelling out money to scruffy Klansmen, who then signed releases for portrayal rights. He is confident that the result will be worth it. "If films like this are done with the imagination of *Bonnie and Clyde*, you can really move people."

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67.

WP SEP 19 1968

G-16 *Thursday, Sept. 19, 1968* THE WASHINGTON POST

Ray on way to jail cell in Memphis July 19.

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Date 19 AUG 1976

68.

Ray Sought Help, Citing 'Difficulties'

By Jerry Lipson

Chicago Daily News Service

A 1966 psychiatric report on accused assassin James Earl Ray describes him as a man who sought help because he feared he might some day get into "serious difficulties."

Ray underwent extensive mental tests in 1966 after his second unsuccessful attempt to escape from the Missouri State Prison, where he was serving 20 years for armed robbery.

The psychiatrist who studied Ray, Dr. Henry V. Guhlman Jr., said Ray felt "his escape attempt was the result of undue anxiety and tension with the need to actually do something" about it.

"He is fearful that this might lead into more serious difficulties," Guhlman said of the man accused of shooting the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4 in Memphis.

In a report to the Missouri Board of Probation and Parole, Guhlman described Ray as an "obsessive, compulsive personality," beset by overpowering fears of harm.

He said Ray felt that potential danger could be warded off only by going through certain "ritualistic" acts.

"These various fears confront him from time to time and in a typical obsessive compulsive way, he feels that he must do certain things" to save himself from harm, Guhlman said.

"For instance, he describes a feeling of fear that can be alleviated if he takes a glass of water he is drinking and sets it on the table and moves it back and forth several times.

The report implied that Ray was driven by these unnamed fears to try to break out of the fortress-like prison at Jefferson City, Mo.

Ray finally escaped April 23, 1967, on his third try, by hiding in a box on the back of an outbound bakery truck.

In the report, prepared four months before Ray's successful escape, Guhlman said his "basic problem revolves around what appears to be an increasingly severe obsessive compulsive trend."

(The 1967 Layman's Dictionary of Psychiatry defines obsessive compulsive as behavior "marked by ritualism and by preoccupation with a single idea or desire.")

Guhlman noted that Ray had requested an examination by an independent psychiatrist, and Guhlman recommended approval of this, saying he was "in need of psychiatric help."

Guhlman reported "no evidence of delusions, hallucinations or paranoid ideas," but noted "a rather deep underlying obsessive compulsive personality trend which he has really never discussed at length with anyone.

"This is not psychotic in nature, but severely neurotic," the psychiatrist said. He expressed strong doubts that Ray was parole material at that time.

Guhlman called his subject an "interesting and rather complicated individual." He said Ray used such technical terms as "solar plexus, tachycardia and intracranial" in describing his aches and pains.

"When we commented that these were rather large words (Ray) reported that he had been reading up in the medical literature," Guhlman said.

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Date 19 AUG 1976

69.

WS SEP 18 1968

News Violations Charged to Four On Ray Trial

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Two newspapermen, a lawyer and a private detective have been ordered to show cause why they should not be held in contempt of court for violating a ban on out-of-courtroom "news statements in the case of James Earl Ray.

Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle, who is scheduled to hear Ray's trial on charges of killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., issued the show cause orders yesterday.

Battle ordered the four men, including Ray's chief defense counsel, Arthur J. Hanes Sr., of Birmingham, Ala., to appear before him Sept. 27.

In addition to Hanes, those cited were Renfro T. Hays, a private detective working for Hanes, and Charles Edmundson of the Memphis Commercial Appeal and Roy Hamilton of the Memphis Press-Scimitar.

Battle took action after receiving a "petition for contempt" by a committee of seven attorneys he named to monitor what is being reported about the Ray case. Ray is scheduled to go on trial Nov. 12.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

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~~SEP 20 1968~~

Ray's Lawyer Says He May Quit Case

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Arthur Hanes Sr. said in court yesterday that he may have to withdraw as James Earl Ray's lawyer.

"Serious difficulties have arisen between me and my client on the best way to handle this defense," Ray's chief counsel said without elaboration.

Hanes, former Birmingham, Ala., mayor, was retained by Ray before Ray was extradited from England and held in Memphis in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Hanes was in court yesterday for a hearing in which a committee of lawyers recommended that he and two newsmen and a private detective be held in contempt of court on grounds they violated an order prohibiting prejudicial news statements in connection with the Ray case.

The hearing was continued until Monday.

Ray charged with the assassination of King in Memphis on April 4, is scheduled to go on trial Nov. 12. He was arrested in England.

Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle appointed the committee recommended that Hanes; Renfro Hays, a private investigator retained by Hanes, and reporters Charles Edmundson of the Commerical Appeal and Roy Hamilton of the Press-Scimitar be cited.

Armistead Clay, attorney for the two reporters, told Battle the hearing pitted the constitutional guarantees of free speech and a free press against the guarantees of a fair trial.

He argued the newsmen were not guilty under the 1st and 14th amendments to the Constitution.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date ~~10 AUG 1976~~

71.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

PAUL COATES

AUG 7 1968

Eric Galt's Trail—and Some Puzzling Angles

Come with me along a winding trail that, unfortunately, ends in the curve of a question mark.

When Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated, I was in Puerto Vallarta, Mex., where I have many compadres. Among them are Mexican artist Manuel Lepe, his wife, Laura, and her sister, Susana Quieroz, who manages the Hotel Tropicana.

On the day I was leaving, we had a farewell luncheon and, naturally, our conversation dealt with the tragedy in Memphis and with the rumor, then current, that the killer had fled to the nearby town of Mazatlan—a rumor fed by the sudden appearance of a Mexican Coast Guard cutter that anchored in the bay and whose sailors, armed with rifles, were patrolling the beaches.

I recall somebody's saying, "Puerto Vallarta is the least likely place for a wanted man to hide out in Mexico. The American colony here is very clannish. They'd notice a stranger immediately and find out all about him."

That theory seems ironical now. You see, Eric Galt was in Puerto Vallarta.

I learned recently that some three weeks after I left, a couple of FBI agents visited the town. At the Rio Hotel, they showed a sketch of the wanted man and asked if he had stayed there. The manager remembered the man and volunteered the information that he had been a guest in the hotel.

He gave the agents a registration card, signed "Eric S. Galt."

Then, the FBI men went to the Tropicana Hotel and asked Susana if she would look through her records and find Galt's registration. They said they knew he had stayed there. She checked and confirmed that he had. Only, this time, he had registered as "Eric Galt" with no middle initial.

I obtained duplicates of the registration slips from both hotels. They show that the man representing himself as Galt had checked into the Rio on Oct. 19, 1967, and later moved to the Tropicana, where he stayed until Nov. 12.

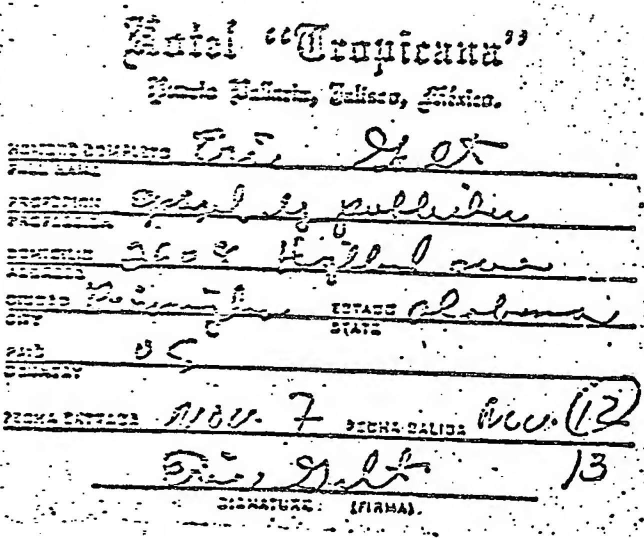
He claimed U.S. nationality and [illegible] Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Ala. This, as we now know, is the address of the boarding-house where James Earl Ray, alias Galt, had rented a room until early October last year.

Employes of both hotels have vague recollections of the man, whom they describe as "quiet," but they distinctly remember his car — a 1966 white Mustang.

Now, I find myself asking a lot of puzzling questions.

- Why did Ray-Galt, the man accused of plotting Martin Luther King's murder, leave Birmingham and go to Mexico six months before Memphis?
- And why did an escaped convict on the lam drive a white Mustang, a car that might have attracted attention in Puerto Vallarta? Was it just bungling, or part of a carefully planned conspiracy?
- Was this really Ray-Galt, or some other man acting as a decoy?

The answers, of necessity, would just be conjecture. But, in Friday's column, I'll explore them.



Hotel "Tropicana"
Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, México.

NOMBRE COMPLETO / FULL NAME: Eric Galt
PROFESION / PROFESSION: [illegible]
DOMICILIO / ADDRESS: [illegible] Highland ave
CIUDAD / CITY: Birmingham ESTADO / STATE: Alabama
PAIS / COUNTRY: US
FECHA ENTRADA: Nov. 7 FECHA SALIDA: Nov. 12
Eric Galt 13
SIGNATURE: (FIRMA).

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Date 19 AUG 1976

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WASHINGTON POST

16 AUG 1968

Ray Book

MEMPHIS — The man charged with murder in the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has contracted with an author to write his biography.

James Earl Ray, awaiting trial, on Nov. 12 has hired William Bradford Huie of Hartselle, Ala., who arrived here Wednesday with Arthur J. Hanes, the Birmingham attorney who will defend Ray.

Huie said he also has a contract with Hanes for material to be used in the Ray story. He said Ray has given him 10,000 hand-written words with which to start the book.

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Date 19 AUG 1976

73.

His Attorney Says Ray Has Given Him Leads

LONDON (AP) — James Earl Ray's American lawyer talked with him in prison today and said he got "names and other leads" to build a case for the defense of Ray, accused of assassinating Martin Luther King Jr.

ARTHUR J HANES

Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., met with Ray for an hour in an interview room at Wandsworth Prison. Hanes said afterward he found the conditions somewhat restrictive. He said he was not permitted an interview in confidence. He and Ray were separated by a glass screen.

The Alabama lawyer said he was beginning to build his case and organize a defense for the day that Ray might be extradited to stand trial for the murder of the American civil rights leader.

"Our meeting was most helpful, most fruitful and beneficial," Hanes said. "We got to know each other better. He is relaxed and feels good. He is perfectly rational, sane and lucid."

Hanes said he plans to leave London tomorrow and did not foresee another trip to Britain.

He said Ray had been receiving "many messages of support from the United States and he is grateful for it. He also has received many offers of help for his defense."

—WS JUL 6 1968

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

75.

THE WASHINGTON POST
22 July 1968

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

FBI Doubts Dr. King a Victim of Plot

By Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson

It now looks as if the FBI has exploded the generally prevalent theory that the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King involved a conspiracy.

The conspiracy theory has long been held, as a result of the large amounts of money spent by James Earl Ray, the suspected killer, and the manner in which he was able to travel around the United States, Canada, and Europe. It was believed his operations would have been impossible without help from other conspirators who were out to murder Dr. King.

For instance, Ray rented a safe deposit box in the Birmingham Trust National Bank, Aug. 20 of last year, and suddenly began passing out crisp $20 bills. He paid $499 for dancing lessons. He also paid $295 for mail-order photographic equipment that he didn't know how to operate.

He shelled out money for a bartending course, though he showed no interest in working behind any bar. He also took a course in lock-picking from a correspondence school in Michigan, which cost about $400.

His white Mustang cost $1995, which he paid in cash. He drove it from Mexico to Montreal and from Los Angeles to New Orleans, and always seemed to have enough cash.

Occasionally Ray slipped $20 tips to bar girls and prostitutes.

All told, Ray spent an estimated $10,000 in seven months. Yet during this time he never held a job. After the King murder, the suspect went to Canada and eventually to England where he also seemed to be in the dough. He had plenty of money to spend on clothes and airplane fare.

So the big question was: Where did he get the money?

For a long time the FBI toyed with the possibility that Ray was financed by a white supremacy ring. He had boasted to fellow prisoners that he intended to make a big "score" on the outside and that he might try to collect a rumored $1 - million bounty that a business group supposedly had offered for the death of Dr. King.

Source of Money

Now, however, the FBI has found a robbery where Ray probably got his money. On July 13 the Bank of Alton, in Upper Alton, Ill., was robbed of $22,000. Alton is across the Mississippi River from Missouri, and it was from the Missouri State Penitentiary that Ray escaped on April 23, 1967, three months before the July 13 robbery in Alton.

The holdup was pulled off by two robbers who wore stocking masks. Their faces could not be identified. However, the FBI has been checking very carefully, and one of the robbers answers the description of James Earl Ray. He had the same long hair, the same height and the same physical makeup.

At first the FBI was inclined to be skeptical. However, rechecking the Alton bank robbery has convinced them that Ray was involved and that this was where he got the money on which he lived so extravagantly prior to the King murder.

The idea that a group conspired to murder Dr. King and paid Ray to do it has now been dropped.

Note 1: The FBI has also traced a British bank robbery to Ray.

Note 2: Arthur J. Hanes, the American lawyer who turned up in London to defend Ray, has been connected with various other cases, involving racial violence. He was the attorney defending the Ku Klux Klansmen in the Viola Liuzzo murder case, has a flair for publicity and it's believed he went to London on his own. There is no evidence that he is being paid by conspirators.

Che Guevara Diary

Some authorities have questioned the authenticity of the Che Guevara diary, which the revolutionary kept before his death in the Bolivian mountains. We can report that the diary is authentic.

Cuban dictator Fidel Castro got hold of it by purchasing bootleg excerpts from Bolivian officials, then piecing the excerpts together. A few pages were missing from the version, which he released to friendly publications around the world, including Ramparts magazine in this country.

Parade magazine's enterprising editor, Jess Gorkin, organized a consortium of publications that sought to purchase the rights to the diary from the Bolivian Government. Gorkin sent Andrew St. George, a bring-em-back-alive correspondent, to Bolivia to translate the diary and research the story behind it.

Actually, some of the other documents captured with Guevara are much more revealing than his diary. He lugged them around the jungle in a waterproof jungle pack and a portable field safe made of special, high-impact plastic.

The papers included the outline of a book Guevara planned to write on the evolution of man's political thinking, going back to the ancient Greek philosophers; also an original short story entitled "Passing the Test," which he wrote in the jungle.

The bloodthirsty guerrilla leader also packed poetry with him to occupy his leisure moments. His favorite poet apparently was Ruben Dario, although some verses appear to have been written by Guevara himself.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1978

76.

TRIALS

A Very Important Prisoner

With the wrapped-in-cotton care normally accorded to precious art works, James Earl Ray was flown to Memphis last week to stand trial for the murder of Martin Luther King.

A bulletproof vest hung over his plaid shirt and his legs were encased in armored trousering when he was led, handcuffed, from a 6½-ton armored van into Shelby County jail at dawn. A score of deputies with riot guns formed a defensive perimeter. Ray was hustled to an air-conditioned cell on the jail's third floor. Heavy steel plates block cell windows. Closed-circuit television cameras monitor all movements. Prison trusties who ran elevators have been replaced by sheriff's officers.

The Straight Word. Such massive protection is more than justified. There is widespread speculation that King's death was plotted by conspirators who are still free. "He won't finish that trial," a Memphis underworldling warned last week. "He's not going to get on that witness chair—and that's the straight word."

Although it will probably be months until he faces trial before Memphis Judge W. Preston Battle, a tough, independent-minded jurist, Ray seemed almost in a hurry to return to the U.S. Abandoning his effort to appeal a British extradition order that seemed doomed to failure anyway, he was spirited by night from grimy Wandsworth prison to Lakenheath Air Base 76 miles from London for his nonstop flight to Memphis.

The secret move left his attorney, Arthur V. Hanes, fuming. He had wanted to go along, said Hanes, because F.B.I. agents aboard the U.S. Air Force jet might question Ray (the F.B.I. said that the four agents escorting Ray had not spoken to him). "The case against this boy is full of holes," sneered Hanes, "and I've got a few bombshells that we're going to drop into those holes." Just what they were, Hanes would not—or could not—say.

JUL 26 1968

RAY ARRIVING AT MEMPHIS JAIL

In a hurry to get home.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Date 19 AUG [illegible]

77.

FBI Finds More Clues In Search for Assassin

WS APR 13 1968

MEMPHIS (AP) — FBI agents have uncovered "very substantial" physical evidence as they work "around the clock pursuing every lead" in the search for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassin, says Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark.

"The FBI is devoting every possible resource to this investigation," Clark said last night. "... While it remains impossible to predict when the killer will be arrested, I remain hopeful that it will be soon."

One View Identified

A Justice Department spokesman said the statement issued in Washington was in response to newsmen's queries.

King was shot and killed by a sniper April 4 as he stood outside his motel room here.

At the Memphis rooming house from which the fatal shot was fired, Charles Q. Stevens said FBI agents had shown him two composite drawings of the suspected slayer — one a partial profile and the other a full face view.

Stevens said he could identify the partial view, but not the full face view. He said he saw the gunman flee after hearing a shot fired from a communal bathroom next door to his room. The bathroom window affords a clear view of the motel balcony where King was standing when shot.

And at a rooming house in Birmingham, residents said FBI agents had questioned them about an Eric Starvo Galt, a white man named in an FBI bulletin issued, then withdrawn, in Florida Thursday night.

White Auto Seen

The message sent over the state police teletypewriter network in Florida asked help in locating Galt. It said Galt was driving a white Mustang.

Witnesses in Memphis told investigators earlier they saw a man in a white Mustang drive away from the rooming house.

Records in Alabama show that a man named Galt bought a 1966 Mustang in August, 1967. Other documents disclosed Galt listed his occupation as "merchant seaman, unemployed," when he applied for a driver's license in Birmingham last September, giving the Birmingham rooming house as his address.

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Date 19 AUG 1976

78.

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FBI Tracking Jobless Sailor In King Killing

From News Dispatches

ATLANTA, April 12 — FBI agents investigating the sniper-slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have been on the trail of Eric Starvo Galt, listed as an unemployed merchant mariner, for nearly a week, United Press International reported today.

Galt's name first reached the public last night when a white Mustang auto, registered to him and resembling one that reportedly sped from the King assassination scene, was found parked in an Atlanta apartment complex.

No warrant has been issued for Galt's arrest, but it was learned that the FBI in Miami had issued—and then for unexplained reasons had withdrawn—a "locate and notify" bulletin on Galt yesterday.

Alabama Registry

The Mustang registered to Galt carried Alabama license number 1-32993. A check with Alabama authorities established Galt's address as a rooming house at 2603 Highland ave. in Birmingham, but residents, while recalling Galt, said they had not seen him since November.

In obtaining his driver's license in 1967, Galt listed his occupation as an unemployed merchant mariner.

The FBI replied with a blanket "no comment" to all questions concerning the King investigation, but persons at the Birmingham rooming house said agents were asking "plenty" of questions about Galt last week.

This was four or five days before the Mustang was located in Atlanta.

The only official announcements in the King case have come from Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

Clark said in Washington today that "physical evidence is very substantial" in the investigation.

"While it remains impossible to predict when the killer will be arrested. I remain hopeful that it will be soon," Clark said in a seven-line statement. "The FBI is devoting every possible resource to this investigation. Agents are working around the clock pursuing every lead."

UPI reporters checking with maritime officials in Mobile learned today that agents, in addition to questioning persons at the Birmingham boarding house, had also made a check of the docks long before the Mustang was found.

Union Officals Checked

A spokesman at the Seafarers International Union in Mobile said agents had visited the union offices two days ago and had gone through automated files, without success, in trying to get a lead on Galt.

Officials at the National Maritime Union of America in Mobile said agents had made a similar check there, and the Star Fishing Company, one of the largest firms of its kind in the area, said it also had been visited by agents.

Agents also checked out Coast Guard files in Washington during the day without finding any trace of Galt.

This raised speculation, which again officials refused to confirm or deny, that someone, as early as last September, set about to establish credentials for a fictitious Eric Starvo Galt.

Alabama officials said that at the time he applied for his Alabama license, at the age of 36, he claimed to have had a Louisiana license since 1962, but there is no record that he ever turned it in.

Obtains Tags

The name of Galt was further validated when license tags for the Mustang were obtained under that name on Oct. 2, 1967, in Jefferson County, Ala.

Residents of the Atlanta apartment complex where the car was found remember the driver as a neatly-dressed man who calmly got out of the car, locked it and walked away.

This description roughly tallied with one given by occupants of a rooming house in Memphis, where the assassin stood in a communal bath and fired the shot that killed Dr. King. The assassin is believed to have checked into the rooming house under the name of "John Willard."

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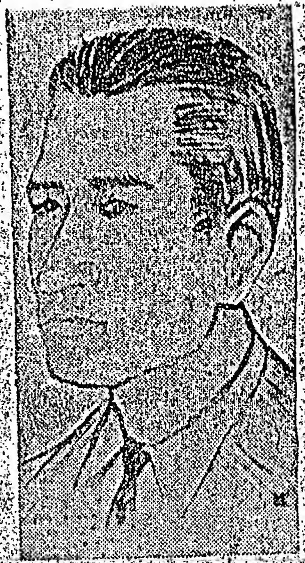
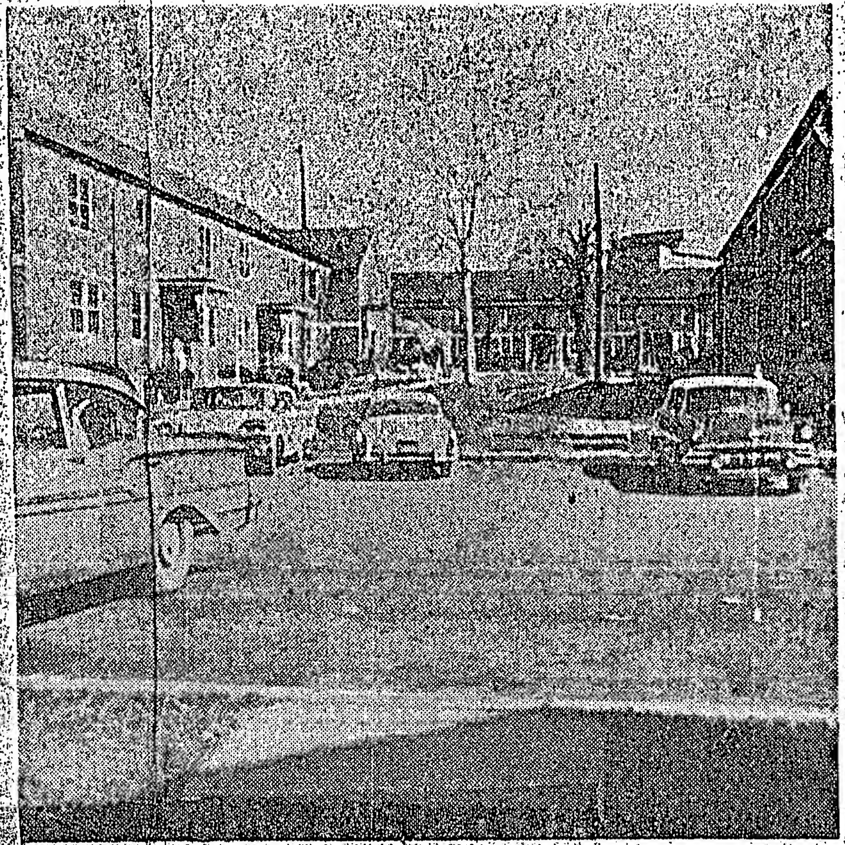


Associated Press

Artist's sketch of suspected slayer. At left is the Birmingham rooming house that is the last known address of Eric S. Galt whom police linked to a white Mustang in Atlanta. At right is where the car was found.



19.

BROAD TRAIL WITH ELUSIVE END

WS APR 14 1968

Movements of King's Killer Traced Step by Step, But . . .

By JEREMIAH O'LEARY
Star Staff Writer

"The man who killed King is either the world's luckiest amateur or part of a fantastically clever conspiracy," said one weary investigator yesterday as the massive hunt for the slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. continued.

Eleven days after the civil rights leader was slain by a sniper in Memphis, Tenn., the Federal Bureau of Investigation finds itself in the dilemma of possessing a lot of physical evidence but nothing that points to the true identity or whereabouts of the assassin.

From information publicly disclosed and from non-FBI sources, this much can be reported about the evidence in hand, the man being sought and how he prepared for and committed the crime:

- The FBI has three names for the fugitive and all of them are considered to be pseudonyms.
- They have latent fingerprints taken from the Remington Gamemaster 30.06 pump rifle believed to have been the assassination weapon, and from the telescopic sight attached to the gun.
- They have a 1966 white Mustang believed used as the getaway car.
- They have half a dozen or more people who saw the suspected slayer both before and after the fatal shooting at 6:01 p.m. April 4.
- But they do not now know who the gunman really is, where he is, whether he was working alone or as part of a conspiracy.

About the Car . . .

Authorities have pieced together this much information about the car they have connected with the case:

On August 30, 1967 William D. Paisley of Birmingham, Ala., sold a 1966 white Mustang to a man who gave his name as Eric Starvo Galt. On Sept. 6, 1967, "Galt" applied for a Birmingham driver's license under that name and No. 2351347 was mailed to him. On March 1, 1968, Galt requested a duplicate and one was mailed to him at a Birmingham rooming house.

Galt had listed his occupation as unemployed merchant seaman and gave a rooming house address, 2608 Highland Ave., Birmingham. It is a place for transients and Galt did not live there more than six months. He apparently was last a resident in November.

The car and the name Galt became significant when Mrs. Ernest Payne, of Atlanta, Ga., looked out her window between 7 and 9 a.m. Friday, April 5, and saw a man drive the Mustang into a parking lot at Capitol Homes, a low-rent housing project near the State Capitol. The car fit the description of one of two white Mustangs which had been parked in the 400 block of South Main Street, Memphis, around the corner from the motel where King was killed.

Mexico Tourist Stickers

The car evidently was abandoned at the Atlanta spot. It was not until April 11 that it was brought to the attention of the FBI. It bore the red-and-white Alabama license No. 1-38903 traceable to the man who gave his name as Galt.

There was mud and cigaret stubs on the floor and two Mexican tourist stickers on the windows. The FBI can link the car with the events in Memphis but refuses to say how.

The name Galt is now believed to be an alias. An exhaustive check of almost every conceivable form of record in the United States has led to a dead end. No Eric Starvo Galt is listed by police departments, unions, credit or banking institutions or on other records.

But, according to Mrs. Payne's description, "Galt" resembles the man being sought for the slaying of King: dark-haired, dark, neat clothes, pointed nose. The Alabama license records for Galt are considered not inconsistent. The application described him as 5 feet 11, 175 pounds, with blue eyes and brown hair.

Both descriptions are considered close to those given by persons who saw the suspect fleeing from the Memphis flophouse from which the fatal shot was fired. The general description given by Memphis witnesses is 5 feet 8 to 5 feet 11, 26 to 32 years of age, neat dark clothing.

About The Gun . . .

The Remington rifle believed to have been the murder weapon was traced by its serial number to a Birmingham, Ala. sporting goods store. The weapon was acquired from the shop on March 30 by a man who could have been either the suspect or an accomplice.

The man got the Remington by trading another gun for it. The FBI has not disclosed his identity, but it can find no trace of anyone with a name like that given to the Birmingham shop. The acquisition has, however, given the FBI another consistent description and another handwriting specimen.

The next event linking King's death to the mystery man occurred April 4, a few hours after King's well-publicized arrival at the Lorraine Motel for a planning session in connection with a march of striking sanitation workers. King checked into a second-floor balcony room, No. 306, at the Lorraine in the morning.

At 3:15 p.m. that same day, a man who gave his name as John Willard checked into a nameless flophouse in Memphis' 400 block of South Main. Bessie Brewer, the proprietor, took him upstairs, showed him a $10-a-week room on one side of the building. She said he turned down No. 8, which has a kitchenette, remarking: "I only want a sleeping room."

Room No. 5 Chosen

Then she showed him Rooms 4, 5 and 6 on the other side facing the Lorraine Motel. The man known as Willard took Room 5 and paid the weekly $8.50 rent in advance with a $20 bill. Mrs. Brewer recalls that he had a sharp nose, dark hair, a "silly" smile and a neat appearance—unusual for her rundown establishment.

So far as investigarors have been able to determine, "John Willard" is another false name.

"Willard" had no luggage and was carrying nothing when he rented the room. The presumption is that during the next hours he went outside and got some things from the Mustang parked on Main Street. Six blocks away, sources report, he bought a pair of binoculars from a place called York's Arms.

In the half hour before King was shot, "Willard" got up from his bed and locked himself in a communal bathroom which has a window facing the balcony of the Lorraine. Willie Anchutz, who lived in the flophouse, tried to get in but his knock was not answered.

According to Memphis Police Director Frank C. Hollomon, a former FBI agent, the distance from the bathroom window to King's balcony is 205 feet 3 inches. The angle of fire toward King was 30 degrees to the right and slightly down, an easy shot with a telescopic rifle.

King emerged three times just before 6 p.m. The third time, he mentioned to the Rev. Samuel Kyles that he was tired of restaurants and wanted some "soul food." Kyles invited him home to dinner and King said he would like that. King leaned on the balcony rail, talking to his driver, Solomon Jones, on the ground below. Jones told King it was cold and suggested he wear a top coat.

King replied, "Okay, I will."

Those were his last words. Standing in the bathtub of Bessie Brewer's flophouse, the killer took aim across a junkpile on a vacant lot, over a row of scrubby trees on an embankment, squinted through the telescopic sight and fired.

Soft-Nosed Bullet Used

King was struck in the lower right jaw by a soft-nosed bullet which coursed through his neck, hit his spine and came to rest in his shoulder. He fell to the balcony deck, unconscious and bleeding profusely, and was dead on arrival at the hospital.

Willie Anchutz heard the shot and looked out his door. He saw a man rush past him in the hall carrying a blue handbag and a long object wrapped in a sheet. Anchutz did not get a good look at the man presumed to be the gunman but remarked, "That sounded like a shot." The man replied, "Yes,. It was."

The fugitive ran out the opposite entrance of the flophouse, ducked into the doorway of the Canipe Amusement Co. at 424 South Main, and dropped the rifle and the bag there. The proprietor, Guy Canipe, saw him abandon the gun and bag, but did not go outside. Other witnesses said the suspect climbed calmly into the white Mustang a few feet beyond and drove away.

It is an easy 8- to 10-hour drive from Memphis to Atlanta, a time element which fits with Mrs. Payne's observation of the man parking the Mustang owned by Galt in the Atlanta housing project.

Within a few hours, the fatal bullet was extracted from King's body and sent to the FBI crime laboratory here, along with the rifle and the bag with all its contents. The FBI has refused to say what was found in the bag or what its laboratory examinations showed.

APPROVED FOR RE[illegible]
Date

80,

King Probe Is Quiet, Intense

WP APR 14 1968

By Gaylord Shaw

MEMPHIS, April 13 (AP)—In the 10 days since the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the lights have burned all night, night after night, in a corner suite on the eighth floor of Memphis' new Federal building.

There, in offices overlooking the wide, muddy Mississippi River, dozens of FBI agents have methodically sifted through what is described as "very substantial" physical evidence.

Exactly what constitutes this evidence is officially unknown, but sources report some of the major items are palm and finger prints, an overnight bag believed to contain clothing and a high-powered rifle with a telescopic sight.

In addition, a white Mustang similar to one that reportedly sped from the assasination scene has been impounded in Atlanta. It has been linked to an Eric Starvo Galt, described as an unemployed merchant seaman who lived in Birmingham until three months ago. The FBI refuses to say why it is looking for Galt.

Robert Jensen, 52, special agent in charge of the Memphis office, wore a strained smile as he faced reporters. "All I can say is no comment," he repeated to all questions.

Jensen wouldn't even say how many agents have been sent into Memphis. But in a five-minute period late one night, reporters watched 15 agents hurry in or out of the

See SEARCH, A5, Col. 1

FBI Takes Over King Killing Case

SEARCH, From A1

suite through an unmarked side door.

FBI agents have interviewed hundreds of persons in Memphis, Birmingham, Atlanta and sewhere. They have taken over the records of two rooming houses and at least on gun shop in Birmingham. They have poured through documents in state and local government offices throughout the South.

(Washington Post Staff Writer Paul Valentine reported from Atlanta that more than 100 FBI agents are working on the case in that city alone.)

It seems that everywhere reporters go, the FBI already has instructed them to say nothing.

Across the street from the FBI office, spokesmen for the Memphis police insist their department still is working closely with Federal agents. But from all indication, the FBI has taken over the investigation completely.

The FBI has maintained silence on all aspects of the investigation. but Attorney General Ramsey Clark issued a new statement in Washington last night that dropped his earlier reference to "one man on the run."

Sixteen hours after Dr. King was slain April 4, Clark said evidence "indicates a single individual" was involved. "There is no evidence of a widespread plot," he said.

In the seven-line statement last night, Clark said the FBI

to the investigation, "working around the clock pursuing every lead."

This could mean that investigators are re-examining the possibility that more than one person was involved in the assassination.

They seemed puzzled about conflicting reports on the number of getaway cars involved and about police radio transmissions detailing a high-speed chase—which apparently never took place—through northeast Memphis 30 minutes after a sniper killed Dr. King with a single rifle shot.

One member of Congress has cirticized the FBI's probe.

Noting what he called discrepancies throughout the investigation, Rep. Charles W. Whelan Jr., (R-Ohio), said the FBI should "set the record straight."

"The handling of the investigation and the efforts to apprehend the guilty person or persons hardly had been reasusring to a tense and troubled Nation," Whelan said in Washington.

But a Justice Department 12 days to make an arrest in the 1963 slaying of civil rights leader Medgar Evers in Mississippi and more than five months to make arrests in the 1964 murders of three civil rights workers in the same state.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 1 9 AUG 1976

82.

GREENVILLE, MISS.
DELTA DEMOCRAT-
TIMES
E-13,019
S-12,952
APR 16 1968

The Smell Of Conspiracy

More and more the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. begins to resemble a well-planned, coldly-executed plot which had its inception months ago. What is more, the way in which it was carried out lends credibility to the theory that it was a conspiracy.

This is written with some reservations. The conspiracy theory does not usually attract us about an event of this nature. We are notably unmoved by the critics of the Warren Report on the Kennedy assassination, who seem to believe that not only was more than one man involved, but that the conspiracy they envision included everyone from Communists to the CIA.

* * *

BUT AS the pieces of the puzzle of Dr. King's murder fall into place—and as others refuse to do so—evidence begins to weigh heavily in favor of a conspiracy theory. At the very least, it now seems evident that this was not an impetuous act by a badly deranged man, but the result of a long-range plan.

There is, for instance, the identity of "Eric Starvo Galt." He doesn't exist, apparently, and yet he began to exist as a person around the middle of last year. He established an identity, then carefully used it in building a trail which has led investigators nowhere.

There was also the matter of the rifle so openly dropped near the flop house from which the death blow was struck. To our knowledge, no official has yet said it was the weapon which fired the fatal shot.

Then there was the fictitious chase of a white Mustang by Memphis police car "160." There is a car 160, but it did not chase a Mustang the night of Dr. King's death. The radio reports which seemed to be coming from that car were, again apparently, another plant to draw police off the real scent.

* * *

THE LINE must be drawn in this kind of speculation, but it is obvious to us that only extremists of the far right or left could anticipate immediate benefit in murdering Dr. King. The left, by which we mean agents of China, Cuba or, possibly, Moscow, were bound to know that Dr. King's death would be the signal for rioting and pocket insurrections in every major American city. They could reason, with good basis, that the disturbances would badly weaken our society's fabric, making us even less capable of dealing with our obligations abroad and further polarizing the races at home.

The far right could also benefit, again assuming angry reaction in the Negro community. What the far right would hope to gain would be a kind of semi-military takeover of this nation in the name of law and order — which again is not so far-fetched a possibility that it can be automatically discounted even now.

Having said this, it is necessary to restate the qualification that the first assumption — of a lone killer acting out his own psychosis — remains the most probable. With every day which passes without an arrest, however, this assumption is drastically weakened. We are left with "Eric Stravo Galt," a man who plotted long and hard and who is still at large. It smells of organization and conspiracy, and the smell grows stronger.

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83.

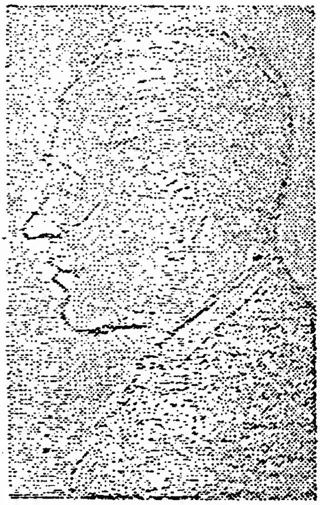
BOOKING KING'S KILLER W/S APR 17 1968

...Or Maybe Ayn Fleming?

Was the murderer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a man influenced by two characters in contemporary fiction—one a glorified individualist who hates society and the other an Ian Fleming arch villain?

The name of the man listed on the registration card of the white Mustang car linked to the slaying is "Eric Starvo Galt." The FBI has been unable to find anything to indicate that any such a person exists.

In Ayn Rand's 1957 novel, "Atlas Shrugged," the leader of a tiny minority of people described as able, creative and ultra-conservative is "John Galt." And in some of Ian Fleming's James Bond stories, the leading enemy of the status quo is called "Ernst Stavro Blofeld."



An artist's unofficial conception of Galt.

Ayn Rand's novel begins with the quote: "Who is John Galt?" but the character remains hidden from the reader for over half the book, at which time he appears and delivers a scorching denunciation of society that runs some 60 pages of monologue.

The literary "Galt" lives in the United States of the future in which the economy is mysteriously declining. Miss Rand's version is that the competent men of the world are vanishing while the greedy incompetents are taking over. The disappearance of the competent "objectivists" is part of their plot against the looters and parasites because the able men are convinced society must collapse before there can be a healthy social order.

To the fictional Galt, the looters are politicians, bureaucrats, self-styled intellectuals who are evil and must be destroyed. Galt denounces mysticism and glorifies reason. His gospel is abolition of the income tax, an end to foreign aid and of social welfare legislation. At the end, as Galt and his cohorts fly to their Atlantis they see New York writhing in its last convulsions.

Ernst Stavro Blofeld is the much-less philosophical villain of "Thunderball" and two other Fleming novels.

If the man who murdered King was influenced by the views of the fictional characters, or even just concocted an alias from a combination of the names, an investigator migh draw the conclusion that the fu gitive is a man of some educa tion or affinity for reading. Per sons who claim to have seen th suspect, before and after th April 4 assassination, describ him as neatly dressed an well-spoken.

There is some speculation tha he is a professional killer, rathe than an "amateur." But feders investigators studying the minut details of the case say ther is no reason to put more cr dence in one idea of the othe

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Names Believed False

Officials believe all three names — Galt, Lowmyer and Willard—are false.

The photograph of Galt was located at a school for bartending in Los Angeles, Calif., where a man using the name Eric S. Galt was graduated on March 2, 1968.

While the true identity of the suspected killer is not known, the FBI has amassed a large body of evidence against the man known as Galt. Hoover disclosed that the 30.06 rifle found near the Memphis flophouse was traced to a gun dealer in Birmingham. The telescopic sight on the rifle also was purchased from the gun dealer on March 30.

Informed sources said Galt went to the gun shop on March 29 and said he wanted a gun to shoot deer in Wisconsin. He bought a 30 caliber weapon, using the name Lowmyer. The next day, these sources said, he returned and said his brother had told him to get a 30.06 Remington Gamemaster.

Owner of Mustang

The FBI also said Galt is the owner of the Mustang seen in front of the flophouse the day King was shot and later found abandoned in an Atlanta, Ga. housing development.

Agents learned that Galt bought the car from a private

straight, and narrow, said his teeth are regular and clean. Galt reportedly has the nervous habit of occasionally pulling at the lobe of his left ear with the result that the ear sticks out noticeably.

The FBI said persons who have met Galt described him as a "loner" whose manner of speech has a "rural" quality and suggests that he probably has no high level of education. He is said to drink alcoholic beverages, preferring vodka and beer, and is a fan of country and Western music.

The FBI warned that Galt probably is armed and dangerous and asked that any information concerning him be furnished immediately to the nearest FBI office.

"He's our man no matter what his name really is," said one official.

There are witnesses who can identify the suspect from his purchase of the car and the rifle, and two witnesses saw him in the flophouse. However, one of them reportedly says the pictures of Galt are not the same man he saw in the flophouse. There is a witness who saw a man of Galt's description park the Mustang in Atlanta after the crime. The FBI laboratory has latent fingerprints from the murder weapon and other unnamed objects believed used by the suspect.

Ballistics tests have been made of the rifle and the bullet taken from King's body.

King's Slayer Remains a Mystery

WP APR 16 1968

Phony Name Stalls Search

ATLANTA, April 15 (UPI) — Indications mounted today that the most wanted man in the Nation, Eric Starvo Galt, never actually existed but was carefully contrived months before the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.

Authorities pressed their search — without a warrant — for the man. But they indicated they feared Galt may be a blind set up to hamper the search for the killer, or killers, of Dr. King.

It was learned that investigators have been unable to trace his existence beyond last summer.

The man who called himself Galt purchased a car in Birmingham, Ala., on Aug. 30. He applied for an Alabama driver's license a week later, at which time he gave his occupation as an unemployed merchant marine seaman. But none of the merchant seamen's unions have any record of him, and it is impossible to work on a ship, officials say, without a union card.

Galt's trail grows cold in Atlanta, where his car — a white Mustang similar to one believed to have been used by the sniper in fleeing Memphis — was found abandoned April 5, the morning after Dr. King was slain.

In Birmingham, meanwhile, rooming house manager Peter Nicholas Cherpes said he had identified for FBI agents a sketch of a man known to him as Galt.

Cherpes, 72, told the Birmingham News in a copyrighted interview that the sketch "looked exactly like" Galt.

"He was above the average roomer in dress, talk and appearance," Cherpes said. "He always wore sporty clothes and a tie. He was always pleasant and I never knew of him drinking."

Cherpes said Galt "didn't say much about his family affairs, only that he was divorced. He only talked about the weather, never about politics or racial troubles."

He said Galt stayed at his rooming house at 2608 Highland ave. from Aug. 26 to Oct. 7 last year.

He said that during September, Galt received a prepaid package in the mail from Chicago. He said it weighed 20 to 25 pounds, was about two feet long and one foot wide. The next day, Cherpes said, Galt told him it was the wrong merchandise and he planned to sen it back.

(The .30-06 Reming hunting rifle, found the murder scene and lieved to be the

See SEARCH, A6, C

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Slaying Suspect Veiled Identity

SEARCH, From A1

weapon was sold in Birmingham, according to the manufacturer's serial number records.)

In October, Cherpes said, Galt told him he was leaving for Mobile, Ala., to seek a job. Galt said he expected a letter from Chicago and asked Cherpes to hold it for him.

In February or March, Cherpes said, the letter came from Chicago. He said the envelope was thin and green, with a Chicago postmark.

"I was puzzled for a while where to mail ti," Cherpes said. "I didn't have an address (for Galt). So I held the letter for a week, and returned it."

Cherpes said it appeared to him the letter contained a check.

When he received the letter, Cherpes said, he went to his file to look for Galt's registration card and found it. But when FBI agents came to him last week, Cherpes said it was missing.

Cherpes earlier denied knowing Galt. He said this was because the FBI has asked him not to say anything about the man. But he said the FBI had no authority to stop him. His rooming house was locked and he refused to admit anyone this afternoon.

He said Galt was a natty dresser who always paid his $27 a week room and board in cash, on time.

"When he was here, on the third or fourth day, he asked me if I would drive his car downtown for him to take a driver's test," Cherpes said.

"He was a new man to Alabama and to Birmingham and also a customer," Cherpes confirmed, "and I wanted to help him on that basis. If he had asked for my recommendation, I would have investigated more closely."

Cherpes said that when Galt arrived at the rooming house, he told him his last job was in the shipyards at Pascagoula, Miss. However, Ingalls Shipbuilding Co. at Pascagoula said it had never hired a man by that name.

Galt told Cherpes he was taking a "long vacation" and expected to stay at the rooming house three or four months. But he only stayed six weeks, Cherpes said.

The only official mention of Galt in connection with the King investigation was in an FBI "locate and notify" bulletin issued, and then withdrawn, in Florida. It said he was 37, 5-foot-11, 175 pounds, blue eyes and brown hair. It said his name was Eric Starvo Galt. It has been speculated, however, that this is a misspelling and that the name is probably Stavro.

-84.

FBI Warrant in King Killing Accuses Pair of Conspiracy

By JEREMIAH O'LEARY

Star Staff Writer

The nation today was being flooded with photographs of the man accused by the FBI of conspiracy in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

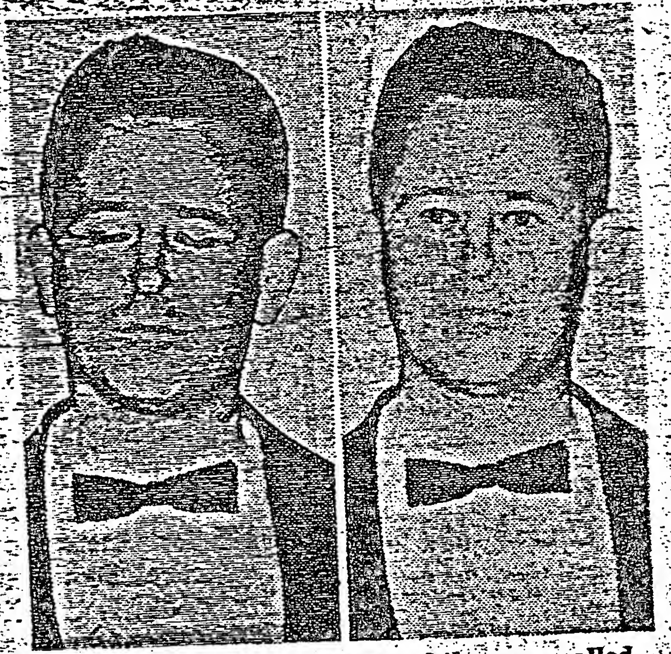
The FBI broke its long silence on the search for King's slayer by filing a federal civil rights complaint against the man called Eric Starvo Galt late yesterday in Birmingham, Ala.

The warrant issued on authority of Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark says that Galt "and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother" entered into the conspiracy on or about March 30.

Police in Memphis, Tenn., filed a murder charge against Galt. The FBI only charged conspiracy because murder is not a federal offense.

King was shot to death on the balcony of a motel in Memphis on April 4, by a single shot fired by a sniper from the win-

See GALT, Page A-6



These are the FBI pictures of the man called Eric Starvo Galt. His eyes were closed in the original photo and an FBI artist sketched in the open eyes.

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GALT

King Case Warrant Charges Conspiracy

Continued From Page A-1

dow of a flophouse 205 feet away.

The FBI warrant was the first mention of a conspiracy by any agency involved in the nationwide man hunt. Galt is accused of conspiracy to violate King's civil rights.

Rewards totaling $100,000 have been offered by non-federal sources for information leading to the arrest and conviction of King's murderer.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered thousands of "Wanted" flyers sent out on the man known as Galt in hopes that the public will now be able to help locate a man about whom much is known, but whose true identity and present whereabouts are a mystery.

Officials say "Eric Starvo Galt" is an alias used in purchase of a white 1966 Mustang which investigators believe was the gunman's getaway car. There also is no certainty that Gault has a brother, although the fugitive is said to have mentioned a brother at the time he bought a rifle in Birmingham six days before King was slain.

In releasing the photographs and filing for the warrant against Galt, the FBI also said that the suspect used the names Harvey Lowmyer and John Willard. Sources in Alabama say Lowmyer was the name the suspect used when he purchased the rifle found a few blocks from the scene of King's murder.

The suspect used the Willard alias when he registered at the flophouse on April 4 and took a room which gave a clear view of the door of King's room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis.

citizen in Birmingham on August 30, 1967. The car's odometer showed that it had been driven more then 19,000 miles between the date of purchase and the day it was found in Atlanta.

According to the FBI, Galt traveled in the Mustang to Los Angeles; New Orleans; Birmingham, Mexico, Memphis and Atlanta. He was seen in Memphis on April 3 and 4 and is known to have departed from there for Atlanta, the FBI said.

The FBI investigation turned up information that Galt claimed to have been a cook on Mississippi river boats and a merchant seaman, although records of maritime unions contain no such name. Galt was also said to be an avid dancer and had taken dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965; in Birmingham during September and October 1967; and in Long Beach, Calif. from December 1967 to February 1968.

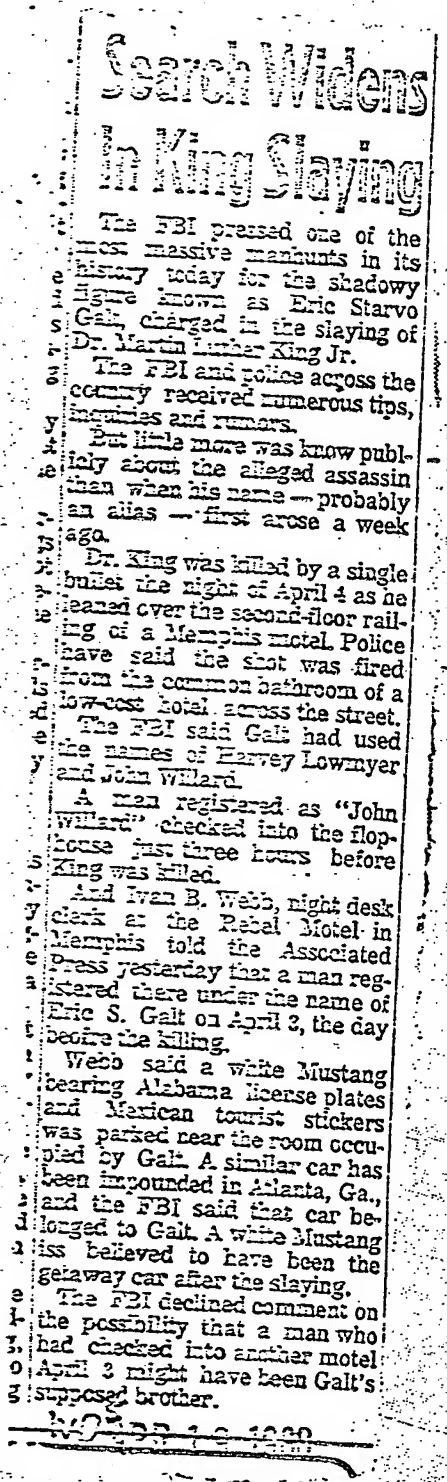
Agents have verified that Galt left Los Angeles on Dec. 15, 1967 and drove the Mustang to New Orleans where he claimed to have contacted either an engineering or a contracting firm. He drove back in bartending in Los Angeles that led FBI agents to the photograph.

Galt Described

Galt is described as white and by his own account, 36 years of age, although his supposed birthplace of July 20, 1931 is not born out by records. He is 5 feet 8 to 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighs between 160 and 175 pounds. His acquaintances and witnesses describe him as a neat dresser of medium build.

He has brown hair which he wears in a brush cut. His eyes are blue or hazel, his nose is

85.



Search Widens In King Slaying

The FBI pressed one of the most massive manhunts in its history today for the shadowy figure known as Eric Starvo Galt, charged in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The FBI and police across the country received numerous tips, inquiries and rumors.

But little more was know publicly about the alleged assassin than when his name — probably an alias — first arose a week ago.

Dr. King was killed by a single bullet the night of April 4 as he leaned over the second-floor railing of a Memphis motel. Police have said the shot was fired from the common bathroom of a low-cost hotel across the street.

The FBI said Galt had used the names of Harvey Lowmyer and John Willard.

A man registered as "John Willard" checked into the flophouse just three hours before King was killed.

And Ivan B. Webb, night desk clerk at the Rebel Motel in Memphis told the Associated Press yesterday that a man registered there under the name of Eric S. Galt on April 3, the day before the killing.

Webb said a white Mustang bearing Alabama license plates and Mexican tourist stickers was parked near the room occupied by Galt. A similar car has been impounded in Atlanta, Ga., and the FBI said that car belonged to Galt. A white Mustang iss believed to have been the getaway car after the slaying.

The FBI declined comment on the possibility that a man who had checked into another motel April 3 might have been Galt's supposed brother.

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1950—When suspect James Earl Ray was arrested in St. Louis, for the robbery of grocery store.

1960—FBI released this photo of Ray yesterday. It was taken while he was in Missouri prison.

1966—Another photo of Ray taken at Missouri State Penitentiary, where he escaped last April.

1968—Ray photo used by FBI seeking "Eric Starvo Galt." (Eyes were drawn by artist).

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FBI director J. Ed
ver said agents linked
to Ray through later

FBI director J. Edgar Hoover said agents linked the case to Ray through latent fingerprints. Hoover's formal announcement did not say where the prints were found, but several prints were known to have been taken by the FBI in the rooming house from which the assassin shot Dr. King as the civil rights leader stood on a motel balcony.

FBI spokesmen said the prints were traced to Ray after a painstaking, page-by-page search of fingerprints filed against more than 53,000 persons for whom "wanted notices" have been published.

Ray, who has an extensive criminal record, has used not only the Eric Galt alias but also the names Harvey Lowmeyer, John Willard, James McBride, James Walton, W. C. Herron and James O'Connor, the FBI said.

His whereabouts from April 1967, when he escaped, until August, 1967, when he reportedly surfaced as Eric Starvo Galt, a tenant of a rooming house in Birmingham, Ala.

The seeming discrepancies—earlier accounts that "Galt" was in New Orleans in 1963 when Ray was in prison—were evidently based on stories that he himself fabricated.

Missouri Penitentiary records show Ray was born in Alton, Ill., an industrial town of 43,000 persons located north of and across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, Mo.

He achieved a 10th grade education, penitentiary officials said, and began developing an arrest record in 1949. He worked as a baker and laborer.

He served prison terms for burglary in California, armed robbery in Illinois and forgery of money orders in Missouri during the 1950s.

In 1960, he was convicted of armed robbery in a $150 gro-

See SEARCH, A6, Col. 1

F.I. Says Galt Is Ray, Who Fled Prison in 1967

SEARCH, From A1

cery store holdup in St. Louis, and began a 20-year term on March 17, 1960.

Penitentiary records clerk Harry Lauf said Ray made two abortive jailbreaks, in 1961 and 1966, before he was successful last April when he was believed to have hidden in a wooden crate used for transporting loaves of bread from the Penitentiary to the Renz penitentiary farm five miles away.

"There is evidence—we never did find conspirators—that he was hidden with the bread on top of his body." Reuters news agency quotes Warden Harold Swenson as saying "The bread arrived in bad condition at the farm."

"He was caught going over the wall in 1961," said Lauf, "and they found him hiding in a ventilator in 1966."

Aside from his escape habits, said Lauf, Ray was a "fairly good" prisoner.

After the 1966 jailbreak attempt, Ray was sent to the state mental hospital in Fulton, Mo., for observation, but was returned to the penitentiary without any finding of mental disorder, hospital officials said.

FBI director Hoover said Ray was an enlisted man in the U.S. Army from February, 1946, to December, 1948, and was given a general discharge because of "lack of adaptability" to military service. While in service, he also served a three-month sentence at hard labor for being drunk and breaking arrest, Hoover said.

He described Ray as 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing 163 to 174 pounds, with blue eyes, brown hair and a small scar on his forehead and another on the palm of his right hand.

Penitentiary officials said Ray was a "loner," which matches descriptions by persons who knew the man who called himself Galt in the Birmingham rooming house.

In a "wanted" poster for Ray when he escaped last year, the pamphlet reportedly listed two brothers, John Ray, of St. Louis, and Jerry W. Ray, of Wheeling, Ill., United Press International reported.

The FBI has denied reports that it has a brother of Eric Starvo Galt in custody and that the brother is aiding the search for the assassin.

When the FBI obtained a conspiracy warrant against Galt earlier this week, it charged that Galt "and an individual who he alleged to be his brother" entered into a conspiracy to deprive Dr. King of his civil rights. The FBI refused to give details on the "brother" yesterday.

UPI also reported that an FBI alert was issued Thursday to all law enforcement agencies in Imperial County, Calif., for a man fitting Galt's description seen near the Mexican border. The alert said the man was seen Monday on a back road four and a half miles west of El Centro, Calif.

87.

Associated Press

Attorney General reports on hunt for King assassin.

FBI Is on Heels Of King Slayer, Clark Declares

Attorney General Ramsey Clark said yesterday that Federal agents are chasing "one man on the run" in the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.

"We have a name we're working on," he said. "Whether it will prove to be the correct name remains to be seen."

Clark said there was still no evidence that the suspect had any accomplices. He said he remained optimistic of an early arrest.

The Attorney General said the trail left by the suspect has lengthened since Friday. Clark said then it had already spread several hundred miles beyond Memphis, where Dr. King was slain.

Clark declined to say just

evidence" in investigating the assassination.

Among other items, police recovered a 30-06 Remington pump rifle from the sidewalk near the flophouse where Dr. King's killer apparently posted himself.

The Attorney General said ballistics tests have been completed and "such evidence as they give will be used in court — soon we hope."

Clark indicated that prosecution of the case, once an arrest is made, would be handled by authorities in Tennessee.

"I think the State of Tennessee wants this case prosecuted perhaps more vigorously than anyone else," he said.

Clark said FBI agents had been keeping a security watch

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Clark declined to say just where the search for King's assassin has led law enforcement officials.

"We are tracking down every lead, every possible lead," he said on the NBC television and radio program, "Meet the Press." "We know quite a bit more than we knew two days ago."

Calling for national restraint, the Attorney General declared that "it would be suicidal" for Negroes to follow Black Power spokesman Stokely Carmichael's advice to arm and retaliate for Dr. King's death.

Riots Unplanned

"This has not happened and the Negro people are committed to its not happening," Clark said. He said the rioting of the past few days has been "purely capricious," unplanned and completely disorganized.

Clark urged that all demonstrations—including today's march in Memphis and the Poor People's Campaign that Dr. King had planned to lead in Washington later this month—be kept "entirely within the framework of law."

"Civil disobedience could be very risky at this time," he warned. "These are turbulent times. We are a disturbed nation and the risks are great."

The Poor People's Campaign is scheduled to begin here April 22. Its organizers have said it will still be held, a step endorsed yesterday by Sen. Edward W. Brooke (R-Mass.), a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders.

"It could be a magnificent memorial to Martin Luther King," Brooke declared on CBS's "Face the Nation."

Brooke said the riots following Dr. King's assassination involved only "an infinitesimal number of the Negro people."

Clark said law enforcement officials have obtained "a very substantial amount of physical

posted himself.

The Attorney General said ballistics tests have been completed and "such evidence as they give will be used in court . . . soon we hope."

Clark indicated that prosecution of the case, once an arrest is made, would be handled by authorities in Tennessee.

"I think the State of Tennessee wants this case prosecuted perhaps more vigorously than anyone else," he said.

Clark said FBI agents had been keeping a security watch on Dr. King since his 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery march.

But he said the surveillance was "limited" and could not have prevented Dr. King from exposing himself as he did by taking a Memphis motel room with a balcony facing the street.

"Dr. King has lived his life, knowing the risks," Clark said.

Escape Understandable

The Attorney General, who hurried to Memphis after Dr. King was killed, called the slaying "a carefully planned assault" and found it "quite understandable under the circumstances" that the killer escaped.

"We have evidence of one man on the run," he added. "There is no evidence that more were involved."

Clark said the turbulence of the past several days makes it imperative to bring hope to the ghettos by passage of open housing legislation and other measures.

The Attorney General said he hoped to see "dramatic, bold, new Federal legislation" directed at the problems in the weeks ahead.

Sen. Brooke predicted that President Johnson would ask Congress to begin implementing the recommendations of his Commission on Civil Disorders.

89.

King Slaying Suspect Held Racist, Drug User

W/S APR 23 1968

Convicts who served time with James Earl Ray, the man wanted in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., have told authorities Ray was a racist and a habitual user of amphetamines while in prison, it was learned today.

Ray, object of a manhunt that extends as far away as Mexico and West Germany, served sentences in Illinois, California, Missouri and the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan. Some of his fellow prisoners have described him as an anti-Negro loner, who spent much of his time in jail reading sex books and girlie magazines.

The FBI declined comment on the accounts of Ray as a racist and user of pep pills.

The FBI also had nothing to say bout reports that his sister, Melba Ryan of Quincy, Ill., thought he might have gone back to Germany where he served part of his three-year Army hitch from early 1946 until he was given a general discharge in late 1948 for lack of adaptability to GI life.

Mrs. Ryan said her brother, now 40, thoroughly enjoyed his tour of duty in Germany. She thought it likely he might have returned there if he was trying to hide.

The FBI has printed thousands of wanted posters in Spanish for distribution in Mexico where Ray is known to have gone at some point after his escape on April 23, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City.

Ray's far-ranging travels after his escape is one of the major question marks facing investigators.

During the year from the date of his escape until April 4 when King was shot to death in Memphis, Tenn., Ray is said to have journeyed 19,000 miles.

He paid more than $2,000 for a white Mustang, took expensive lessons in dancing studios and bartending schools and traveled from Birmingham to New Orleans, to California, to Mexico, to New Orleans again, then to Atlanta, and finally to Memphis, investigators say.

He has been connected wit the car and rifle believed t have been used by King's slaye by his fingerprints and is wante by the FBI on a warrant charging conspiracy in the death o King as well as for being a fug tive from the Missouri priso system.

Investigators do not know hov Ray financed his purchases, hi day-by-day expenses or his travels without any known job during the period after his escape

Investigators are hopeful tha widespread circulation of hi photos and fingerprints, plus the $150,000 in reward money offered for his apprehension, will lead them to Ray. Thousands of leads have been received and all are being checked out.

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91.

King Slayer's Trail

GUATEMALA CITY Guatemalan secret police said U.S. FBI agents were investigating a report that James Earl Ray, suspected killer of Dr. Martin Luther King, had been in Guatemala.

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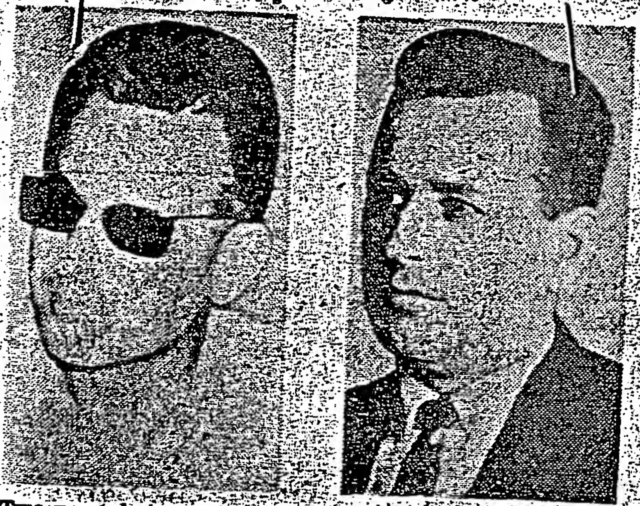
Wash Post

8 MAY 1968



Two new photographs of James Earl Ray, sought in the slaying of Dr. King, were released yesterday by the FBI. They were taken in November, 1967, in Mexico City, left, and in late January or early February of this year in California.

2 New Ray Photos Are Issued by FBI

By John P. MacKenzie
Washington Post Staff Writer

The FBI released yesterday two new photographs of James Earl Ray, the object of the nationwide manhunt in the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Agents appeared satisfied that the pictures, one taken in Mexico last November and the other taken in California in late January or early February, were the best likenesses yet made available of the 40-year-old fugitive.

Previously the FBI has had to rely chiefly on old mug shot type pictures from Missouri State Prison, from which Ray escaped a year ago, or a front-view photograph of the suspect with eyes closed, on which a Bureau artist drew open eyes.

The FBI refused to say who supplied the new picture or what role they may already have played in the search for Ray.

The FBI would not disclose whether agents had shown the pictures to persons who know Ray under the name of Eric Galt or any other alias, either in Birmingham, Ala., or the Los Angeles area. Some persons who remembered "Galt" have failed to identify him from previous pictures.

Both new pictures appeared to be candid snapshots. The one said to have been taken in California had a background of a print pattern of wallpaper or drapes and a table lmp. The lamp is at an angle from the vertical, suggesting that it was taken by an amateur.

The California picture showed Ray in a "business suit," the FBI said. In January and February the FBI has said Ray was attending a Los Angeles bartending school. The Mexico picture shows him wearing an open-collar, light-colored shirt and sun glasses.

The FBI has said that Ray traveled to Los Angeles and Mexico, among other places, in a white Mustang purchased in Birmingham last August and abandoned in Atlanta on April 5, the day after Dr. King was assassinated

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Date 19 AUG 1976

HOLED UP—OR BURIED

The Ray Mystery Deepens

By JEREMIAH O'LEARY

Star Staff Writer

James Earl Ray, sought as the slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has disappeared as effectively as if the earth had swallowed him, and that may well have been the case.

"If he was the hired triggerman of a conspiracy, the chances are very good that he has been killed to silence him forever," said one official who has been close to the international manhunt for Ray. "But if he conceived and carried out the plot alone, he is probably holed up somewhere. But where?"

Whether he was a paid gunman or a loner, the last trace of Ray goes back to the morning of April 5, less than 15 hours after Dr. King was shot to death by a sniper in Memphis, Tenn.

JAMES EARL RAY

Mrs. Ernest Payne, who lives in a low-rent housing project called Capitol Homes in Atlanta, Ga. peered out her window sometime between 7 and 9 a.m. that day and saw a man believed to be Ray park and lock a white 1966 Mustang. Two Atlanta cab drivers believe they may have given Ray a short ride that same morning.

Beyond that point, Ray has vanished.

The FBI has said nothing about the progress of its investigation and has issued only three terse press releases along with several photos of the wanted man. But from a number of sources it has been possible to amass a considerable amount of information about Ray's life prior to last April 4.

Ray was penniless when he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Mo. on April 23, 1967.

On Aug. 30, 1967, he turned up in Birmingham, Ala., rented a safety deposit box in the Birmingham Trust National Bank and began spending large amounts of money — estimated to total up to $10,000 — over the next seven months.

Where he obtained the money

See RAY, Page A-14

Evening Star 9 May 68

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Date 19 AUG 1976

RAY

Mystery Surrounding King's Killer Deepens

Continued From Page A-1

that he spent on the car, his 19,000 miles of travel to Canada, Mexico and the West Coast, and on wine, women and bartending lessons is one of the mysteries of the case.

FBI agents have located some persons who describe Ray as a Negro-hating racist and others who say he never mentioned race over long periods of time.

If he has a profession, it si that of a notably unsuccessful small time hoodlum. So far as the records indicate, every holdup or robbery he ever tried ended in disaster for him. He was, as the convicts say, a three-time loser.

Investigators trying to trace the source of his money have been unable to connect him with any robbery that occurred in his year of freedom since his Missouri prison excape.

The basic federal charge against Ray is conspiracy to violate the civil rights of Dr. King, while the Tennessee charge against him is murder. The conspiracy charge was based on a remark attributed to Ray himself. He is said to have told a Birmingham gun dealer that his brother had told him to buy the 30.06 Remington gamemaster pump gun which has been tabbed as the murder weapon.

Ray's brothers have been checked out and officials say they have not been linked with the crime.

● But investigators have not ruled out the possibility:

● That Dr. King's murder may have been ordered and paid for by extremists of the right or the left.

● That these plotters may have been either white or black.

● That they could have been either domestic or foreign.

The FBI, on orders from Director J. Edgar Hoover to break the King case at any costs, has traced Ray's life from his birth on March 10, 1928 in Alton, Me. up to the morning of April 5, 1968.

A ninth-grade dropout, he eventually joined the Army and served the better part of three years in the West German cities of Bremen, Bremerhaven, Nuernburg and Frankfurt. He was tried in a refrigeration company, the military police and the infantry, but the Army finally gave him a general discharge for ineptness.

Arrests Mount

Soon after his release, Ray turned to crime and was arrested many times from 1949 until his last sentencing in 1960. His life pattern was fixed. He became a loner whose amusements centered on bar girls and prostitutes. He rarely worked. When he needed money for vodka and beer, he stole or took it by force. He never married.

Fellow prisoners knew him as a man addicted to amphetamine or "pep" pills, an avid reader of "girlie" magazines, a lone wolf who constantly talked of escape. A fellow prisoner has reported that once when a rumor was circulated in prison that a "businessmen's group" had offered a $1 million bounty for the death of Dr. King. Ray said, "If I ever get out of here, I believe I'll collect that."

On Aug. 30, 1967, Ray answered an ad placed in a Birmingham newspaper by William D. Paisley, who wanted to sell his 1966 Mustang. Ray paid $1,995 in cash for the car.

At that time, Ray was going under the name of Eric Starvo Galt and it was by that alias he was known to his Birmingham landlord, Peter Cherpes, and to Alabama authorities who issued him a license on Sept. 6, 1967. This was the start of his heavy spending, although he continued to live in cheap rooming houses and rundown hotels.

Trip to Canada

For reasons unknown, Ray drove to Canada and spent a few days in Montreal. He lived in an old hotel and passed himself off as an employe of Expo-67.

While living in Cherpes' house in Birmingham, Ray received a large box of expensive camera equipment from a mail order firm in Chicago.

Cherpes said Ray left his place on Oct. 7, 1967. He drove to Mexico, where he passed some time in places like Jalisco and Puerto Vallarta. He became well known in the cantinas there and even had his picture taken with a Mexican prostitute. (That picture, showing Galt wearing sun glasses, was released by the FBI this week.)

Investigation believe his motive for going to Mexico was to buy marijuana but Ray apparently also liked the country. He told one acquaintance: "When I make my big score, I'm going to come down here and live on beans and beer."

He next turned up in Los Angeles where he checked into the St. Francis Hotel and became a regular habitue of the Sultan Room bar of the hotel and other saloons. The barkeeps and girls around the Rabbit's Foot Club grew to know him as a man with a thirst and a bankroll.

Still as Eric Starvo Galt, he remained in Los Angeles until March 27, 1968, and left a broad trail. There was one side trip from Los Angeles to New Orleans with a man named Charles Stein, a bearded songwriter. Stein reported that his friend required him, his sister and his cousin to sign a petition for third party presidential candidate George Wallace in North Hollywood, Calif. as the price for taking him to New orleans and back.

Stein recalled that Ray made one long-distance call from somewhere in Texas but did not know who he called. Stein also does not know why Ray went to New Orleans, nor who he saw there.

While in Los Angeles, Ray advertised in the L. A. Free Press, a "hippie tabloid," for a contact with a "passionate married woman." He signed the ad "Eric S," but Free Press records show that he used the full alias, "Eric S. Galt" in paying for the ad. He also bought a list of five female names from the Swinger's Club of Downey, Calif. for $1 and sent a letter and picture of himself to a Los Angeles girl on Feb. 17. She gave the Polaroid picture to the FBI and it, too, was made public this week.

Using his "Galt" pseudonym, Ray paid more than $400 for dancing lessons in Long Beach and more than $200 for a course in bartending during his Los Angeles stay. He paid cash for both.

Birmingham Story

Ray left Los Angeles on March 27 and drove to Birmingham arriving there on March 29, the day he made the first of two visits to the Aeromarine Supply Co.

On the first visit he gave his name as Harvey Lowmyer and bought a Remington 243 caliber rifle, telling the salesman he wanted to go deer shooting in Wisconsin. On March 30, "Lowmyer" returned to the shop and said his brother had told him he had gotten the wrong kind of gun. What he wanted, he said, was a Remington 30.06 Gamemaster with a telescopic sight.

From there, the deduction is that Ray went ot Atlanta and got a room in a boarding house inhabited largely by hippies. Here he was once again Galt. The FBI did not find the boarding house until several days after Ray's abandoned car was reported parked in the Atlanta housing project on April 11.

In the vain hope that Ray might still be hiding inside, the FBI staked out the house and watched it for more than 24 hours. Then agents dressed in "hippie" clothes got inside and found that the quarry had either fled from the room soon after ditching his car April 5 or had not returned there at all.

But the agents found key evidence in the room — a television set that "Galt" had gotten in a trade with a girl in Los Angeles and a city map of Atlanta.

Map Delineated

The map had four circles drawn around four significant locations: Dr. King's Atlanta residence; the office of the Southern Christian Leadership Conferance; the "hippie" house and the spot where the car had been abandoned on April 5.

Even more inportant was a well-defined fingerprint found on the map. FBI fingerprint experts were able to determine that the print was from a right thumb whereas all other 26 latent fingerprints from Ray's rifle, car, binoculars and places he had been were too incistinct for classification.

The decision was made to compare the map fingerprint with the equivalent points of all white male fugitives in the general age range of the man known as "Galt." An exhaustive finger-by-finger comparison proved that Eric Starve Galt and James Earl Ray were one and the same and the manhunt was launched.

VEGAS SUN
20 MAY 1968

Carl Rowan

Plot Theory Probed

WASHINGTON—The entire U.S. intelligence apparatus, including the military and the Central Intelligence Agency, has now become involved in the investigation of the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Evidence gathered by FBI agents in one of the most massive probes in the nation's history has forced serious investigation of these possibilities:

1. That James Earl Ray, the alleged assassin, was the hired killer in a Cuba-Red China plot.
2. That the "assassin squad" of the Soviet secret police was somehow involved in the plot.
3. That Ray was hired indirectly by certain black nationalists who paid him with money made available by foreign sources.

MANY AGENTS

The FBI has had as many as 2,000 agents working at one time, in cooperation with hundreds of local policemen and other U.S. intelligence agents, to track down every lead—including the above possibilities that the assassination was plotted with the intention of creating internal chaos in the United States.

It should be emphasized that the dominant theory—and hope— among those directing the investigation is still that the killer was a loner who murdered Dr. King out of his own crazy, racist views.

But this theory loses supporters as each day goes by without agents turning up any trace of Ray, who is linked to the murder and murder weapon by fingerprints and ballistics data.

FBI agents believe no loner could get food and drink for so long a period in this country without being detected in the massive day-and-night search that is underway.

WELL HEELED

This point, added to the now-known fact that Ray had plenty of money, has given credibility to the theory that Dr. King's assassin was a hired killer.

A growing fear in FBI circles is that the killer was given $10,000 in advance to murder Dr. King with a promise of much more upon completion of the job. When he returned to his U.S. racist employers for the final payoff, the theory goes, he was slain and his body dumped where agents may never find it.

International intelligence agents have entered the investigation, however, because of Ray's mysterious trips to New Orleans—and certain of the suspect's trips out of the country. The FBI reportedly has pinpointed Ray's movements even to knowing which prostitute he spent which night with in certain countries, but it has not yet produced meaningful evidence of an international plot.

But there is deep suspicion of a Cuba-Red China plot. The assumption is that, if the Cubans had made arrangements to spirit their hired killer out of the U.S., they very likely killed him and dumped him in the ocean.

LITTLE EVIDENCE

Totally-informed sources here say, however, that there is no evidence whatsoever of involvement by the Communist party of the United States, or of any splinter group of U.S. Communists.

One source called the King killing "one of the most baffling cases in memory." He said suspect Ray "just vanished in the face of the damndest FBI manhunt in ages."

He also theorized that the slaying and escape were so smoothly organized that they tend to discredit suspicions of black nationalist involvement—but that "Every possibility must be checked."

The FBI is pouring vast amounts of manpower and money into the search because it knows its reputation is at stake. It also knows that if Dr. King's killer is not found all sorts of rumors will arise. Memphis police already have been accused of plotting the murder, and the accusations soon could be hurled at the FBI or other federal agencies.

Some of those directing the investigation are openly hoping that it will turn out to be the work of one man. They fear the explosive repercussions if it turns out that the murderer was a hired killer for white U.S. racists—or for a foreign power.

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Date ~~19 AUG 1976~~

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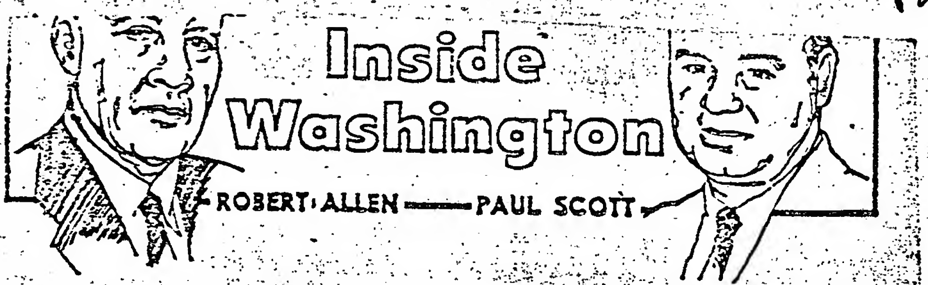
LAS VEGAS SUN

3 JUN 1968

File: Ray



Inside Washington

ROBERT ALLEN — PAUL SCOTT

Clues To Assassination

WASHINGTON — The Federal Bureau of Investigation's massive probe of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King is taking a possibly sensational turn.

With James Earl Ray, the suspected assassin, apparently either outside the U. S. or now dead, FBI agents have increased their surveillance of several American Communists known to have been closely associated with King, including one who wrote speeches for him in the past.

This new development was triggered by evidence gathered by the more than 1,000 agents who have worked on the mysterious King shooting and by several "tips" and letters sent to the FBI.

One of the most interesting of these "tips" came from an alert TV viewer and concerns the now famous "Mountain Top" speech King made on April 3, the night before his slaying, showing a premonition of his impending death.

"If the speech was truly made in Memphis on April 3 as reported," the letter pointed out, "then how can one account for King stating his age as 36 (instead of 39) and why does he speak of demonstrating in Alabama twice during the speech?"

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

After checking out the time and location of King's final speech, several of the crack FBI agents assigned to the case decided to begin seeking answers to a number of their own questions, including:

"If King had personally written that speech, why would he make mistakes like those contained in it—especially the one involving his age?"

"If the speech was written by someone other than King, who was the author and when was it written?"

The answers to these questions are considered highly important to the investigation, since, if another person was concerned in the preparation of that speech, the writer might be able to shed new light on it — especially those mistakes.

Also, if King had received help with the speech, the passages dealing with the civil rights leader's premonition of death would probably have been fully discussed. King's request to the Detroit police department for protection when he visited that city a few weeks before his death indicated he feared for his life then.

Information gathered by the FBI on King, prior to his assassination, showed that a secret member of the Communist Party's executive committee was one of King's closest advisers and speech writers.

This ghost writer for King prepared many of his most famous speeches, according to testimony given by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover during a closed door meeting of a House Appropriations subcommittee.

Since Ray during his trips prior to King's assassination visited the same city in which this ghost writer lives, the FBI is now investigating to determine if the two met covertly.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 10 AUG 197

WIDENING THE INVESTIGATION

Recent evidence gathered by FBI agents in one of the most massive probes in the nation's history has forced serious investigation of these possibilities:

- That somebody close to King or within his own organization tipped off his assassin as to the civil rights leader's routine on the day of his slaying.
- That Ray was hired directly by certain black nationalists who paid him with money made available by foreign sources.
- That an international Communist "assassin squad" was involved in the slaying.

Because of Ray's mysterious trips to Mexico and Canada shortly before the assassination, the entire U. S. intelligence operation, ranging from the Central Intelligence Agency to the Defense Intelligence Agency, has been pressed into the hunt for King's killer.

One CIA report indicates that Ray, who is linked to the murder weapon by fingerprints and ballistic data, may have visited Cuba during his Mexican trip, according to information furnished by a Mexican airline official.

The FBI assumption is that, if there was a conspiracy to kill King, those involved made arrangements to spirit their hired killer out of the U.S. to Cuba via either Mexico or Canada.

THE CHANGING TIMES

Probably the greatest irony of the probe of King's assassination is that FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, one of the civil rights leader's severest critics when he was alive, is doing everything in his power to solve the case.

On the other hand, King's closest aides in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference are showing little or no interest in whether the killer is found.

When Rev. Ralph Abernathy, King's successor as president of the SCLC, presented a series of demands to Attorney General Ramsey Clark for the "Poor People's" campaign none of these called for more intensive effort to solve King's assassination.

According to persons who attended the meeting, nothing was said about King's death or the FBI investigation, although a number of the poor in "Resurrection City" had urged Abernathy to press for a more vigorous probe.

Congressional supporters of Hoover say there are a number of compelling reasons for Abernathy's silence. Most important of these is King's instruction to key aides of his Southern Christian Leadership Conference not long before his death that no verbal attacks were to be made against Hoover or the FBI for fear of counter action by the FBI director.

The last time King blasted Hoover and the FBI publicly, these lawmakers pointed out, the FBI director called the Negro leader the "most notorious liar" that he had ever known — a statement Hoover has never retracted.

At the time, the King-Hoover exchange resulted in a White House arranged meeting at which the veteran FBI director did most of the alking.

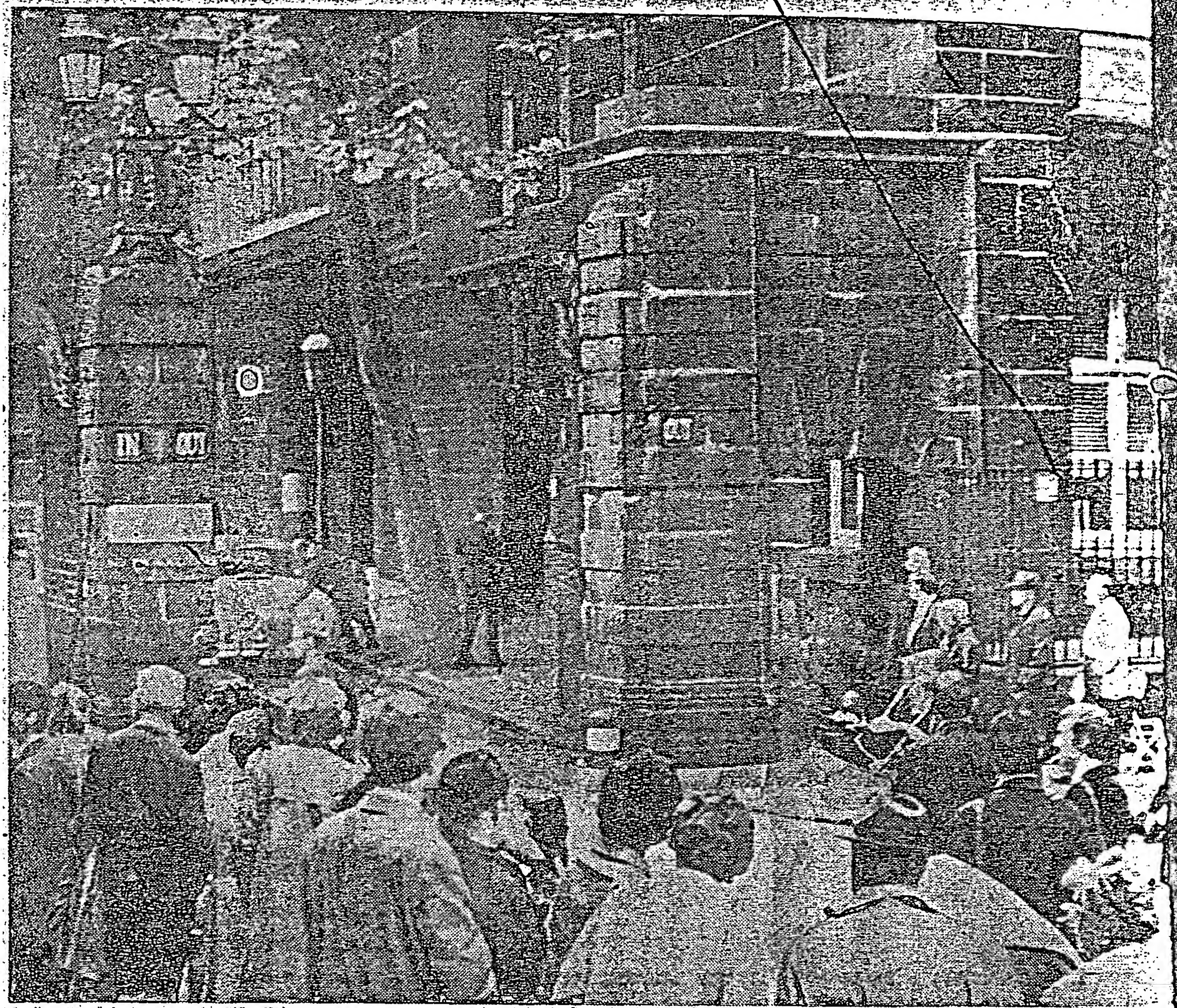
According to an unpublished account given to House Appropriations ubcommittee members, Hoover frankly told King that if King ever reeated his unfounded charges against the FBI, everything he knew about King would be made public.

After that blunt warning, King refrained from ever repeating his ttack against either Hoover or the FBI. Rev. Abernathy, who accompaied King to Washington for that meeting with Hoover, adopted the same policy.

he boxed portion of this article did not appear in the Northern irginia Sun for 4 June 1968.

LAS VEGAS SUN

3 JUN 1968



Outside London's Cannon Row police station where suspect Ray is being held under maximum secur

The Hunt for a Man of Many Nan

By John Maffre
Washington Post Staff Writer

For a month, while the FBI and law enforcement

Strangely enough, the name submitted with Ray's passport application was that of Ramon George

an inmate of the Missouri State Penitentiary from which Ray is listed as a fugitive.

They found the photograph of Ray (alias Sneyd) and also that the travel agency had handled his re-

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Date 19 AUG 1976

8 June 68

For a month, while the BI and law enforcement agencies throughout the United States hunted for James Earl Ray, he was living in a shabby area of downtown Toronto.

The section Ray picked is also known for its large colony of American expatriates—mostly young men who have moved to Canada to escape the draft.

To this day, the 40-year-old Ray's month in Toronto remains largely a mystery to the city's division of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. And when they no[illegible] a week ago—after Ray's picture had been identified on a fraudulent passport application — Ray was gone, and few remembered him.

For weeks a team of 10 or 12 Mounties had sat in Ottawa's Bank street headquarters of the External Affairs Passport Office combing through more than 200,000 passport applications made in the last year.

They finally came across that give-away photograph, one that had been eluding the FBI in Washington in its own search through more than 100,000 applications in State Department files. Within minutes the RCMP was on the phone to Toronto, the FBI's liaison man in Ottawa was alerted, Washington was called and the pinpoint search was on.

passport application was that of Ramon George Sneyd, who (except for a minor difference in the first name) turned out to be an officer on Toronto's police force.

Ray even went to the extent of learning Sneyd's date of birth and the names of his parents so he could get a birth certificate in his name, and use it to get the passport. Yet for some reason the application he made used the first name "Ramon" in the Spanish fashion, not "Raymond."

"He was a smart cookie" reflected Metropolitan Toronto Police Chief Bernard Simmonds. "He learned a lot about that name Sneyd and we would like very much to know how he did it."

(There's another irony in the name Sneyd. It's a common one in eastern Ontario, many being descendants of the United Empire Loyalists who trekked north to Canada like good Tories after the American Revolution, so they could continue living under the British flag. Pride of ancestry among the UEL matches that of the Daughters of The American Revolution.)

To get his passport picture taken Ray used the name Paul Bridgeman, when he went to the Arcade Photo Shop on downtown Yonge street. That was the name of

which Ray is listed as a fugitive.

It is also the name of a man who lives near the real Sneyd. The RCMP would not discuss how the name Bridgeman became involved.

Scarborough, where the real Sneyd lives, is about 15 miles outside Toronto, far from the shabby $9-a-week rooming house at Ossington and Queen streets where Ray arrived April 8, four days after the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was shot.

Ray lived at the rooming house until April 19, and during that period went to the Kennedy Travel Agency on downtown Bloor street, one of the major ones in the city. The agency sent his passport application on to Ottawa for him. With it went a required affidavit witnessed by a notary public saying that Sneyd really was a Canadian.

Passports are not difficult to obtain in Canada, and in due time Ray's arrived from Ottawa. The issue date was April 25.

On April 19 Ray had moved a few blocks away to a similar rooming house run by Mrs. Yee Loo at 962 Dundas Street. He told her to keep the room clean but he rarely slept in it, and kept few effects there.

When the RCMP checked the travel agency about their efforts for an applicant named Sneyd, they drew a blank. Then they went back with the name Bridgeman, and this time they were in luck.

and also that the travel agency had handled his request for a flight to London from Toronto aboard a British Overseas Airways Corp. jet. It was a return ticket but as it turned out, Ray was to cash the return portion in London.

He left Toronto on May 6. By coincidence on that date —a Monday— the RCMP team in Ottawa began its exhaustive search of passport files.

A day after he arrived in London, Ray flew to Lisbon, buying his ticket with the refund from the return half of his ticket back to Toronto.

There he applied for and received on May 16 another Canadian passport, for reasons that are not yet clear. Thereafter his movements were as secretive as his sojourn in Toronto.

But in the meantime the RCMP search in Ottawa and Toronto had turned up enough information to send an alert to police forces and international airlines in Europe.

At 11 a.m. yesterday in London Ray—still posing as Sneyd—arrived on a flight

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Associated Press

James Earl Ray being questioned by Chicago police in 1952 after he was wounded while fleeing a taxi driver robbery. He was sentenced to one to two years.

Suspect's Extradition Might Take Months

By Karl E. Meyer

Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, June 8—James Earl Ray, sought in the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., will be formally arraigned at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Bow Street Magistrates Court.

After his arrest at London Airport today, Ray, under the name of Ramon George Sneyd, was charged with unlawful possession of a pistol and traveling with a fraudulent Canadian passport.

Extradition proceedings are expected to begin soon, but officials would not say precisely when. A Scotland Yard spokesman said the process could take anywhere from a week to six months, depending on the kind of legal objections that the accused man might choose to raise.

Crowd at Police Station

By early afternoon, a crowd of photographers and onlookers surrounded Cannon Row police station, where Ray is being held until his formal arraignment. Police here would not say whether U.S. officials had questioned the suspect, but the belief here is that no such questioning has yet taken place because it would not accord with the scrupulous letter of British law.

This is how the arrest came about, as pieced together from sources at London Airport and Scotland Yard:

Ray was a passenger on British European Airways Flight 075 from Lisbon, which arrived at London Airport at 6:20 a.m. He went with other passengers by airport bus through a heavy drizzle to the in-transit lounge in building No. 2, where he was due to take another BEA flight leaving at 7:50 a.m. for Brussels.

Normally transit passengers wait in the lounge without showing their passports but Ray was apparently singled out and questioned by police at 11:15 a.m. He was then formally arrested.

Gives His Age as 35

Ray gave his age as 35 and said he was born in Toronto. Police would not say whether he was traveling alone.

After his arrest, Ray was promptly whisked to the Cannon Row station, a grim, fortress-like building that adjoins New Scotland Yard, the former headquarters of the metropolitan police. Two years ago the Yard moved to a new building on Broadway, though it is keeping the old name.

After appearing in Bow Street Court, prisoners are usually remanded to Brixton Prison, but it is felt that special provisions may be made for Ray. Scotland Yard would not disclose who was giving legal counsel to him.

Extradition proceedings can be long, awkward and complex if a defendant contests them. It may be necessary to try Ray first on the lesser offenses that he has been charged with in Britain, though this could be done quickly. Following that Ray could use the appeals process to stretch out a decision for up to six months.

Observers recalled the 1962 case of Dr. Robert Soblen, who was wanted in the United States to serve a life sentence for spying for Russia. On July 1, Soblen wounded himself on his wrists and abdomen while on an El Al airliner. He was taken off the plane to London, and then claimed that this amounted to "leave to land," entitling him to the protection of British law. The argument was ultimately rejected by British courts, but the appeals process lasted until September, when Soblen was deported back to the United States.

In formal terms, extradition is first proposed by the U.S. Justice Department (in this case at the request of Memphis, where Dr. King was slain). The request is conveyed by the State Department to the U.S. Embassy in London, which presents it to the Foreign Office, which in turn passes it on to the Home Office.

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KEL & CO.

Sunday, June 9, 1968 THE WASHINGTON POST

The Many Faces of James Earl Ray

Pictures of James Earl Ray, accused of killing the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4 in Memphis. The photos, released previously by the FBI, range from the 1950 St. Louis police picture at left to the latest one at right with the eyes sketched in by a police artist.

Suspect in Dr. King's Killing Arrested

RAY, From A1

two rooming houses. On April 16, he went to a travel agency and ordered a 21-day excursion ticket to London.

When Ray told Lillian Spencer, office manager of the Kennedy Travel Agency, that he was a Canadian but did not have a passport, she offered to help him get one, as is customary in such cases, the police said.

Affidavit Notarized

She found him a notary public, who routinely notarized his affidavit of citizenship, required for a passport. Neither Miss Spencer nor the

SUPT. THOMAS BUTLER

Ray was in Montreal in the summer of 1967, the FBI disclosed yesterday, where he enrolled as Eric Galt for a correspondence course in locksmithing offered by a school in New Jersey.

Immediately after the arrest, External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp called for a "full study" on tightening Canada's passport regulations.

In the Justice Department announcement, Hoover singled out the Mounted Police and Scotland Yard for praise for their cooperation in one of the most wide-ranging searches for a suspect in recent times.

Shot From Rooming House

in the rooming house across from the Lorraine Motel.

Police also found a .30-06 hunting rifle with a telescopic sight in the rooming house on South Main Street. The gun was purchased March 30 in Birmingham, Hoover said.

The search extended through the United States, Canada and Mexico, with the FBI circulating numerous photos and sketches of Ray.

At several points, police thought they had traced Ray to definite locales—once Florida, once California, and once Mexico—but each time the trail, if it existed at all, vanished. There was conjecture that Ray was dead

The arrest came on the day of the funeral of another assassinated American leader, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and helped to ease tensions that had arisen over the lack of results in the search for Dr. King's killer.

Complaints About Police

Many Negroes had complained that the Memphis police had not taken immediate action to apprehend the killer. On Tuesday, a delegation of the Poor People's Campaign angrily asked Attorney General Clark why no arrest had been made.

Dr. King's widow in New

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two rooming houses. On April 16, he went to a travel agency and ordered a 21-day excursion ticket to London.

When Ray told Lillian Spencer, office manager of the Kennedy Travel Agency, that he was a Canadian but did not have a passport, she offered to help him get one, as is customary in such cases, the police said.

Affidavit Notarized

She found him a notary public, who routinely notarized his affidavit of citizenship, required for a passport. Neither Miss Spencer nor the notary suspected Ray's identity.

She mailed Ray's application to the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa, and the Department mailed the passport to Ray, who was using the name Ramon George Sneyd.

There is a Raymond George Sneyd in Toronto (he is a Metropolitan Toronto policeman) but he knew nothing of the passport application or about Ray, Canadian police said.

The FBI, after a search through American passport files, asked the Canadian Royal Mounted Police to check the Canadian files. The examination was begun in May, about the time Ray was leaving Canada. Early this month the photograph was uncovered.

The Canadians informed the FBI of the fake passport, and an alert was sent to Scotland Yard and other foreign police agencies.

The alert paid off yesterday as Scotland Yard's Detective Chief Superintendent Thomas Butler and Detective Chief Inspector Noel Thompson—known as the "Terrible Twins" for their tenacity in tracking suspects—took Ray into custody. He offered no resistance.

FBI sources said later that the man arrested had definitely been identified as Ray

SUPT. THOMAS BUTLER
. . . Scotland Yard's man

The FBI had no information on how Ray, a 10th-grade drop-out who escaped in April, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary, where he was serving a 20-year term for armed robbery, could successfully obtain two fake passports or afford to travel to Europe.

Canadians applying for passports must have a guarantor, usually a professional man or a banker, to swear that they have known the applicant for two years, or must present a notarized affidavit to support the application.

Canadian officials said that Ray did not have a guarantor, but had presented an affidavit.

summer of 1967, the FBI disclosed yesterday, where he enrolled as Eric Galt for a correspondence course in locksmithing offered by a school in New Jersey.

Immediately after the arrest, External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp called for a "full study" on tightening Canada's passport regulations.

In the Justice Department announcement, Hoover singled out the Mounted Police and Scotland Yard for praise for their cooperation in one of the most wide-ranging searches for a suspect in recent times.

Shot From Rooming House

The 65-day-old search that ended yesterday began immediately after Dr. King's death. Police quickly determined that the fatal shot had come from a rooming house overlooking the motel. But the slayer had fled.

The FBI linked a man named Eric Starvo Galt to the slaying through an abandoned 1966 white Mustang found in Atlanta a week after Dr. King's death. The car was purchased in Birmingham and had Alabama license plates.

Galt was charged in a Federal warrant issued April 17 with conspiring to violate Dr. King's civil rights. But two days later the FBI revealed that Galt was a fictitious identity carefully built up by Ray.

Ray was identified after the FBI searched through 53,000 fingerprint files. Hoover said then that Ray was identified through latent fingerprints found at the scene of Dr. King's slaying.

It is known that several prints were found by the FBI

from the Lorraine Motel.

Police also found a .30-06 hunting rifle with a telescopic sight in the rooming house on South Main Street. The gun was purchased March 30 in Birmingham, Hoover said.

The search extended through the United States, Canada and Mexico, with the FBI circulating numerous photos and sketches of Ray.

At several points, police thought they had traced Ray to definite locales—once Florida, once California, and once Mexico—but each time the trail, if it existed at all, vanished. There was conjecture that Ray was dead.

On May 7, the Shelby County grand jury in Memphis returned a first-degree murder indictment against Ray, who is also wanted on a Federal warrant for escaping prison.

The suspect, who has worked as a baker and laborer, according to Missouri Penitentiary officials, began a lengthy prison record in 1949.

He served prison terms for burglary in California, armed robbery in Illinois and forgery in Missouri in the 1950s. In 1960, he was convicted of robbing a grocery store in St. Louis and began his 20-year term March 17, 1960.

He is thought to have concealed himself in a wooden crate that was driven out of the penitentiary in a bread truck.

Ray has been described by persons who say they have known him as a drifter and a loner who often voiced racist sentiments.

A GOURMET SPECIALTY

sassinated American leader Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and helped to ease tensions that had arisen over the lack of results in the search for Dr. King's killer.

Complaints About Police

Many Negroes had complained that the Memphis police had not taken immediate action to apprehend the killer. On Tuesday, a delegation of the Poor People's Campaign angrily asked Attorney General Clark why no arrest had been made.

Dr. King's widow, in New York for Sen. Kennedy's funeral, was told about the arrest by newsmen but made no comment.

Memphis Mayor Henry Loeb said he was "delighted" by the news. "Anything that the city can do to see that the culprit is brought to justice will be done." If extradition is successful, Ray will probably be tried in Memphis.

Civil rights leaders also expressed satisfaction at the arrest. "We are happy he has been caught if he is the man," said Hosea Williams, a leader of the Poor People's Campaign. "I want to see justice prevail, but not only with the man but with the system."

And the news brightened an otherwise sad day for many Americans. One representative response came from a Negro cab driver here who said, when he heard the announcement on the radio: "That's the only good news I've had this week."

She mailed Ray's application to the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa, and the Department mailed the passport to Ray, who was using the name Ramon George Sneyd.

There is a Raymond George Sneyd in Toronto (he is a Metropolitan Toronto policeman) but he knew nothing of the passport application or about Ray, Canadian police said.

The FBI, after a search through American passport files, asked the Canadian Royal Mounted Police to check the Canadian files. The examination was begun in May, about the time Ray was leaving Canada. Early this month the photograph was uncovered.

The Canadians informed the FBI of the fake passport, and an alert was sent to Scotland Yard and other foreign police agencies.

The alert paid off yesterday as Scotland Yard's Detective Chief Superintendent Thomas Butler and Detective Chief Inspector Noel Thompson—known as the "Terrible Twins" for their tenacity in tracking suspects—took Ray into custody. He offered no resistance.

FBI sources said later that the man arrested had definitely been identified as Ray through fingerprints. The arrest was requested by the legal section of the American Embassy in London.

Duplicate Issued

Ray is reported to have left Canada May 6 on a flight to London. He then immediately flew to Lisbon, where he told the Canadian Consulate that he was a Canadian whose passport had been lost or stolen. He was issued a duplicate.

Scotland Yard said that Ray arrived back in London on a flight from Lisbon yesterday, and was going to travel on to Brussels.

The FBI had no information on how Ray, a 10th-grade dropout who escaped in April, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary, where he was serving a 20-year term for armed robbery, could successfully obtain two fake passports or afford to travel to Europe.

Canadians applying for passports must have a guarantor, usually a professional man or a banker, to swear that they have known the applicant for two years, or must present a notarized affidavit to support the application.

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Ray has been described by persons who say they have known him as a drifter and a loner who often voiced racist sentiments.

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A GOURMET SPECIALTY

WS JUN 27 1968

Ray Sole Killer, U.S. Says at Hearing

LONDON (UPI)—The United States said today James Earl Ray was the "single hand" killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It said it had a witness to prove it.

A British lawyer for the United States called in a formal extradition hearing for Ray's return to Memphis, Tenn., to face charges of the "calculated, brutal and senseless murder" of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning civil rights leader April 4.

British barrister David Calcutt said in historic Bow Street Magistrate's Court that finger prints connected Ray to the rifle used to assassinate King.

The attorney said U.S. authorities had a witness who saw Ray enter a rooming house bathroom overlooking the motel where King died, heard a shot fired from the bathroom and watched Ray come out of the room a minute later.

Calcutt identified the witness as a "Mr. Stevens" but did not give his first name.

Heard Shot Fired

The barrister said the witness said Ray stayed an "unconscionable length of time" the third and last time he was observed going in the bathroom.

The third time Mr. Stevens heard a shot fired from the bathroom window," Calcutt said. "A minute later Mr. Stevens saw a man coming out of the bathroom. He was the same man who booked accommodations" (in the rooming house.)

King was hit as he stood on a motel balcony. Investigators said the shot was fired from the bathroom window in the rooming house across the street.

As Ray stood — showing no apparent emotion — in the prisoner's dock, Calcutt looked at him and said: 'This tragic death was the work of this crim-

wide. It was wrapped in newspapers."

"I think it was the same man I had seen earlier with Mrs. Brewer (the landlady) in Room 5B. I went back to the window and looked toward the Lorraine Motel. I saw a lot of men and policemen."

The barrister charged the bundle the man carried contained the murder rifle, with telescopic sight, and binoculars. Calcutt said there was strong evidence the bullet that killed King came from the rifle. He said the United States also had evidence Ray purchased the rifle. The rifle was found in a doorway on the street.

Calcutt quoted a deposition from George Bonebrake, U.S. Department of Justice fingerprint expert, that three fingerprints found on the murder rifle, its telescopic sight and a pair of binoculars found outside the rooming house matched prints of Ray on file with the FBI.

Admitted Being American

A Scotland Yard detective testified that Ray admitted he was an American although he carried two Canadian passports in the name of Sneyd when he was picked up.

Chief Superintendent Thomas Butler said he saw Ray at London Airport the day he was arrested. He said he told Ray that although he claimed Canadian citizenship he had reason to believe Ray was an American.

"He replied, 'Oh well, yes I am' and nodded agreement," Butler told the court.

Butler said when he told the defendant he believed he was Ray the accused suddenly slumped in his cell.

"The accused had been standing up but at this he suddenly slumped down on the seat behind him, put his head in his hands and said, 'Oh, God.' After a moment or so he added, 'I feel so trapped.'"

Made No Admissions

Butler said, however, the man in the dock had made no admission he was Ray. Neither, Butler said, did he admit guilt to murder charges concerning King.

The defendant made "no admissions of any kind," Butler said.

The hearing recessed at 1:05 p.m. for a 75-minute lunch period. The magistrate said another hearing would be held next week.

Sources closely acquainted with the case said they expected the hearing to be completed today. Further legal proceedings will follow a decision by the magistrate. British law requires that the Home Secretary concur in extraditions and that he give the person held 15 days to appeal the magistrate's decision to a higher court decision or the House of Lords.

Legal sources said Ray and his attorneys could delay extradition through the end of the summer even if all appeals fail.

Ray has been held under 24-hours-a-day observation in the maximum security wing of London's Wandsworth Prison.

In his first court appearance June 10, Ray was formally charged with carrying a loaded unlicensed pistol and using a forged Canadian passport. Eight days later the magistrate ordered the British charges held in abeyance pending its extradition hearing.

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Date 19 AUG 1976

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As Ray stood — showing no apparent emotion — in the prisoner's dock, Calcutt looked at him and said: "This tragic death was the work of this criminal."

Work of "Single Hand"

Calcutt described the crime as "the working of a single hand."

Today's was the third British court appearance for the 40-year-old escaped convict from Missouri since Scotland Yard detectives arrested him at a London airport June 8 and charged him with possessing false passports and a loaded pistol. He was traveling under the name of a Toronto policeman, Ramon George Sneyd.

One hunred policemen guarded Ray at the hearing. He rode to the court in a black police paddy wagon.

Calcutt quoted Stevens as saying he was certain a shot had been fired from the bathroom window, "because a partition between my kitchen and the bathroom was very thin."

Saw Man Running

"I looked through a broken pane of glass and heard voices coming from across the street in the direction of the Lorraine Motel," the lawyer quoted Stevens. "I opened my door and I looked toward the bathroom. The door was open. I ssaw a man running. He was carrying a bundle which looked to be about three to four feet long and six to eight inches

don Airport the day he was ar-

3 Witnesses Against Ray Vanish From Memphis

WP JUN 28 1968

MEMPHIS, Tenn. June 27 (UPI)—Three key witnesses against James Earl Ray, accused of killing the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., have dropped from sight and may be in protective custody, investigation showed today.

A fourth witness has been confined to a mental institution, authoritative sources said. The witness was not identified.

British barrister David Calcutt, representing the United States today at an extradition hearing for Ray in London, told the court that American authorities had a witness a "Mr. Stevens," who had seen Ray enter the boarding house bathroom that Dr. King's killer used as a sniper's post.

Calcutt's disclosure sent local reporters scurrying to the boarding house to further interview Charles Q. Stevens, who was known to have given authorities information concerning the April 4 killing.

But when newsmen reached the house they found Stevens missing and a padlock on his old room, No. 6. Also missing were Bessie Brewer, former house manager, and another occupant, Willie Anchutz, who gave officials information.

Mrs. Brewer and her husband, Frank, had been replaced in the manager's office by Mr. and Mrs. James MacDonald. The MacDonalds said they had been managing the rooming house "only a few days" and did not know the Brewers.

Frank Holloman, Director of Fire and Police, said he could make no comment, and FBI agent Robert Jensen, questioned about Stevens, said he talked to him a few weeks ago, but "I have no knowledge of is whereabouts at the present time."

Jensen refused to comment regarding Mrs. Brewer and Anchutz, explaining: "I'm sorry. I'm restricted and can say nothing about the case."

United Press International

CHARLES STEVENS

[illegible] witness against Ray

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Q. Have you ever met Dr. Martin Luther King personally in your life?

A. No, sir, I haven't.

Q. Have you ever had any kind of grudge against him?

A. No sir.

Q. Did you kill Dr. Martin Luther King?

A. No sir.

WP JUN 28 1968

Suspect Ray Denies Killing Dr. King

By Karl E. Meyer

Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, June 27—The man accused of murdering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said in magistrate's court today that he didn't do it.

The denial, the first public statement uttered by James Earl Ray alias Ramon George Sneyd, was made at an extradition hearing that revealed some key elements in the U.S. Government's case against him.

Ray sat calmly in 300-year-old Bow Street Court as a lawyer for the United States offered evidence to show that Ray bought and fired the weapon that killed Dr. King in Memphis last April 4.

And he listened attentively as his own attorney argued that the murder of Dr. King was a political offense, thereby exempt from the extradition treaty between the United States and Britain.

Only twice did Ray speak. The first time he contradicted a police account of his behavior upon his arrest here. The second time he denied committing the murder.

Ray was asked by his British lawyer, [illegible] Frisby: "Have you ever met Dr. Martin Luther King personally in your life?" "No, sir, I haven't," replied Ray.

"Have you ever had any kind of grudge against him?"

"No, sir."

"Did you kill Dr. Martin Luther King?"

"No, sir," answered Ray.

He spoke in a low, almost inaudible drawl. Because Ray was not testifying under oath, he was not subject to questioning about his name. As he spoke, detectives formed a protective line around him.

The key points in the U.S. case were these, as out-

See RAY, A4, Col. 1

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Date 19 Ap[illegible]

A4 Friday, June 28, 1968 THE WASHINGTON POST

Suspect, at Extradition Hear

RAY, From A1

lined by David Calcutt, the British lawyer representing the United States:

- FBI fingerprint analysis showed that Ray's prints, the print on the murder weapon and the prints of Ramon George Sneyd were all from the same man.
- Ray was observed by a fellow boarder in a Memphis rooming house emerging from the bathroom from which authorities maintain Dr. King was shot.
- Ray was identified by witnesses as the buyer of the gun used to kill the civil rights leader.

Before the tersely dramatic denial, Chief Superintendent Thomas Butler of Scotland Yard testified that when Sneyd was first informed that the police believed he was really Ray, he slumped into a chair, put his head in his hands and said, "Oh, God." After a moment, the court was told, he added, "I feel so trapped."

Sneyd promptly spoke up.

"I would like to disagree with what Superintendent Butler has said. I have to say his testimony is false."

The bulk of the case against Ray was offered in the form of depositions read by Calcutt, who recalled that the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy had said after Dr. King's death that the Negro leader had given himself "to justice and love." Dr. King's murder, he said, "was the working of the single hand of this man."

Chief magistrate Frank Milton, who is expected to rule on the extradition request Tuesday, was given this sequence of evidence to lay the grounds for Ray's extradition:

On March 29 Ray allegedly entered the Aeromarine Supply Co. in Birmingham, Ala., and purchased a Winchester rifle, telescopic sights and ammunition. He used the name "Harvey Lowmeyer," and was seen by a customer in the store.

On March 30, he allegedly returned to the store and exchanged the gun for a Remington rifle, serial number 461476, with a Redfield telescopic sight, serial number 17350. He was served by Donald Wood, whose father owns the store, and who identified Ray by picking out his photograph.

On April 3, Ray checked into the New Rebel Hotel in Memphis, registering as "Eric S. Galt." He was seen by Henrietta Hagemaster, 37, the receptionist, who also was able to identify Ray.

Ray checked out April and the same day bought a pair of Bushnell binoculars costing $41.50 at the York Arms Co. He was served by Cordra oYrk Sr., who picked out Ray's photograph from a group.

The same day the accused man also moved to a rooming house known by its address, 424½ Main Street, and took room 5B adjoining the room of Charles Stevens, 46, a disabled veteran. Stevens in his written statement recalled that his neighbor made repeated trips to the bathroom—a third visit was especially remembered

ng, Denies Killing Dr. King

because I wanted to use the toilet."

The bathroom window faces the balcony of the suite in the Loraine Motel in which Dr. King was staying. A bullet would travel 207 feet from the bathroom to where Dr. King was standing on the balcony. It was asserted that the entry angle of Dr. King's wound was consistent with the path such a bullet would follow.

After Dr. King was killed, Stevens says he saw a man running in the hallway carrying a bundle in his right hand, wrapped in newspapers. "I thing it was the same man I saw with Mrs. Brewer (the landlady) in room 5B" Stevens asserted.

N. E. Zachary, the first policeman on the scene, recovered the bundle, which contained the gun, binoculors, two maps, a newspaper, toilet articles, and socks. According to U.S. ballistic expert, a bullet fired through the Reming on rifle would have the ame characteristics as the ullet recovered from Dr. King's body.

The only American who ppeared in court today as witness for the United tates was George J. Bone rake, who since 1941 has een a fingerprint examiner r. the FBI. He lives at 2314 Georgia ave. in Silver pirng, and said he has ade "millions of finger unt comparisons."

On April 5, he received r examination the Reming n rifle, the Redfield tele ope sight, and the Bush ll binoculars. He testified at he fund one clear print each of these, and that the prints were those of James Earl Ray.

Becaue he was the only witness from America, Bonebrake was asked a series of questions about Dr. King's reputation by Sneyd's attorney. Bonebrake agreed that the Negro minister was a controversial figure who aroused strong feelings pro and con.

Frisbee, a British barrister with a casual and soft-spoken courtroom manner, used this testimony to help develop his argument that the murder of Dr. King was of a political character and therefore not an extraditable offense.

Frisbee cited three leading cases in which Britain had denied extradition of foreigners on the grounds that the offense was political. An 1891 case involved a Swiss revolutionary who took control of a municipal building and shot and killed a guard before escaping to England. In 1894, France unsuccessfully sought extradition of several anarchists who had blown up a barracks, killing a number of people. The third case involved a polish trawlerman who in 1955 seized his boat and sought asylum in Britain.

This line of defense prompt the judge to remark "If your argument is right, when any controversial figure is killed, this court must draw the conclusion that this is a political offense."

ORDERED IN LONDON

LONDON (UPI)—A London court today ordered James Earl Ray extradited to the United States to stand trial in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ray, 40, identified as an escaped convict from a Missouri jail, is accused of shooting the civil rights leader in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4. He was arrested at London Airport on June 8.

Ray's defense attorney, Roger Frisby, argued in Bow Street Magistrate Court that the slaying was a political crime. But Frank Milton, chief metropolitan magistrate for London, agreed with the U.S. position that it was outright murder.

There is still much legal red tape to go through before Ray is returned to the United States. His defense attorney indicated he would appeal in a [illegible] that could take weeks.

WS JUL 2 1968

(Earlier Story on Page A-10)

A-10 THE EVENING STAR
Washington, D. C., Tuesday, July 2, 1968

U.S. Denies Killing King Was Political

LONDON (AP)—The U.S. government today denied James Earl Ray's contention that the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a political crime for which he could not be extradited from Britain.

"There is not a shred of evidence to show that the murder took place to further the ends of a larger enterprise," David Calcutt, a British lawyer representing the U.S. government, told London's Chief Magistrate Frank Milton.

Today's was the second session in the Bow Street Magistrate's Court on the U.S. government's application for Ray's extradition. At the first hearing last wek, Ray denied he killed King or even knew him.

"No other man or body was involved," Calcutt said today. "There have been undertones that this might be so, but the evidence before this court points to a lone assassination for private purposes."

Calcutt addressed the court after Ray's British attorney, Roger Frisby, told the magistrate that whoever killed King did not do it on personal grounds but because he disapproved of the type of activity King was conducting.

Ray Makes Statement

Shortly after the court adjourned for lunch, Ray returned to make an unexpected statement.

Sandwiched between two [illegible] he told the magistrate:

to say and I would like to thank the court."

Ray was then taken back to the cells adjoining the court.

Persons accused of political crimes are not subject to extradition under the treaty between Britain and the United States. The United States has also asked for Ray's extradition as an escaped convict from the Missouri State Penitentiary, but if he is returned on that charge only, the extradition treaty would prevent his trial on the murder charge.

Frisby argued that an offense could be a political offense without any attempt to overthrow the lawful government of a country. Nor was it necessary for there to be any kind of open insurrection or civil war, he contended.

Fourth Court Appearance

"Wherever there is a substantial body of persons in the state seeking by constitutional or other means to compel the government or the state to change its policy, you have a situation where even the crime of murder may be motivated politically."

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Date 19 AUG 1976

because he disapproved of the type of activity King was conducting.

Ray Makes Statement

Shortly after the court adjourned for lunch, Ray returned to make an unexpected statement.

Sandwiched between two policemen, he told the magistrate: "I don't want to repeat myself. I would like to take the opportunity to object to Mr. Butler's testimony."

Detective Chief Supt. Thomas Butler of Scotland Yard had testified last week that, when accused, Ray collapsed on a seat in his cell crying: "Oh God I feel so trapped."

Ray quickly denied he ever said it and he made a further denial today "especially in view of the fact that this case will probably be given wide publicity in the United States, especially in the so-called liberal press."

Never Signed Anything

"I would urge this court to take in the totality of the circumstances," Ray said, "ne, that I did not sign any kind of statement whatsoever, and also the fact that I said I did not want to have conversation with anybody connected with the United States Justice Department.

"One other thing I object to, I'm sure it is not connected wiht the case. I believe there is a connection between this hearing and the trial in the States. Shortly after I was arrested by the British authorities, I engaged an attorney in the United States—Mr. Arthur Hanes of Birmingham, Ala.

"He subsequently made a trip to consult with me. This was opposed by the Home Secretary James Callaghan, and I made an application to the home secretary and I received no answer.

"I then wrote to Mr. Edward Heath Conservative opposition leader and I was informed by the governor of Wandsworth Prison that this was not permissible and that he would forward the letter to Mr. Callaghan. Evidently the House Secretary would decide whether Mr. Heath would be permitted to read the letter.

Seeks More Freedom

"I think that, in view of the seriousness of this case, I should have had a little more freedom to write and visit people in the circumstances. That is all I have

insurrection or civil war, he contended.

Fourth Court Appearance

"Wherever there is a substantial body of persons in the state seeking by constitutional or other means to compel the government or the state to change its policy, you have a situation where even the crime of murder may be motivated politically," Frisby asserted.

"I have to say that the deceased man was a political figure engaging in political activities."

It was Ray's fourth appearance in Bow Street court since his arrest on June 8 at London airport, where he was waiting to board a plane for Brussels with a Canadian passport issued to Ramon George Sneyd.

The hearing may end today, but if the magistrate rules in favor of extradition, Ray is certain to appeal to the High Court. This would extend his stay in Britain for weeks at least.

Extradition Expected

The first extradition hearing Thursday was devoted mainly to testimony on behalf of the U.S. government, seeking to prove that Ray had purchased a rifle with telescopic sights in Birmingham, Ala., had been seen in a Memphis, Tenn., rooming house overlooking the motel where King was shot, and that prints found on the abandoned gun were his.

British legal experts generally, are convincted that Milton will order Ray's extradition. But they say that conflicting precedents give Frisby ample scope to argue the case on appeal.

Over the years, British courts have held that to be entitled to exemption for a political offense, a fugitive must be allied with one of two separate and identifiable political groups contending for power in a country.

British Judge Orders Ray Extradited to U.S.

By Karl E. Meyer

Washington Post Foreign Service

WP JUL 3 1968

LONDON, July 2—A British magistrate today ordered the return of James Earl Ray to the United States to face charges of murdering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray, 40, showed no visible emotion in Bow Street Court as he heard Chief Magistrate Frank Milton reject a defense argument that the murder of Dr. King was a political crime and therefore not subject to extradition.

The judgment, which is almost certain to be appealed, was pronounced in a crowded and dingy courtroom. It meant that the American had lost the first major round in what could be legal battle lasting well into August.

In an unexpected development, Ray complained that he had not received all the rights due him since he was arrested at London airport on June 8 under the name of Ramon George Sneyd.

Ray volunteered the statement after formal argument had concluded in the morning. He began by repeating his objection to testimony by Chief Superintendent Thomas Butler of Scotland Yard, who quoted Ray at the time of his arrest as saying "Oh God . . . I feel so trapped."

Sketch by Illingworth

JAMES EARL RAY . . . at hearing yesterday

Ray declared:

"I would like to take the opportunity to object to Mr. Butler's testimony, especially in view of the fact that this case will be given wide publicity in the United States, especially in the so-called liberal press.

"I would urge this court to take in the totality of the circumstances. One, that I did not sign any kind of statement whatsoever, and also the fact I said I did not want to have a conversation with anybody connected with the U.S. Justice Department."

Ray also objected to being denied a visit with U.S. Attorney Arthur Hanes, stating that "I believe there is a connection between this hearing and the trial in the states.

"Shortly after I was arrested by British authorities, I engaged an attorney in the United States, Mr. Arthur Hanes of Birmingham, Ala. He subsequently made the trip to consult with me. This was opposed by the Home Secretary, and I made an application to the Home Secretary and received no answer.

"I then wrote to Edward Heath (leader of the conservative opposition)," Ray said, "and was informed by the governor of Wandsworth Prison that this was not permissible and that he would forward the letter to Mr. Callaghan." (James Callaghan, the Home Secretary).

"Evidently, the Home Secretary would decide whether

See RAY, A6, Col. 6

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urt scene shows the main characters Ray extradition hearing, from left, rank Milton, the court clerk, defense attorney Roger Frisby, addressing the court; David Calcutt, representing the United States, a detective guarding Ray, the defendant, and another detective seated behind a barrier that separates newsmen and spectators from the court proceedings. Each person was searched before being permitted to enter the courtroom.

Sketch by Illingworth

DAVID CALCUTT
... represents U.S.

Extradition of Ray Ordered

RAY, From A1

Mr. Heath would be permitted to read the letter. I think in view of the seriousness of this case I should have had a little more freedom to write and visit people in the circumstances. That is all I would like to say. I would like to thank the court."

Ray spoke in a low voice, his words coming in rapid bursts. The court reported had difficulty understanding his accent, especially the phrase, "so-called liberal press," which was initially transcribed as "little press."

Ray's statement was made after the court had formally adjourned for lunch. When the magistrate heard through Ray's attorney that the defendant wished to offer a statement, he reconvened the court so that he might hear it before making his ruling. The statement was then read aloud by a court reporter when the afternoon session resumed, with Ray making occasional corrections as it was recited.

Later in the day the Home Office denied that it had prevented Ray from seeing his American attorney. A spokesman said that on June 20 Ray had petitioned the Home Office for a visit with Hanes and this was granted the same day.

But Hanes had flown back to the United States on the 24th.

In court, Chief Magistrate Milton said that Ray's complaint could have no bearing on the ruling he was about to make. He pointedly said that Ray's case "could not have been more conscientiously, persuasively and ably put" than it was by Roger Frisby, the defense counsel.

Frisby summed up his main agrument by asserting that something akin to an insurrection existed in the South of the United States as a result of the civil rights movement of which Dr. King was a prominent and controversial leader.

Frisby did not dispute that the U.S. had submitted evidence showing that there was a prima-facie case for trying Ray for murder, even though his client denies killing Dr. King.

"Whoever's finger was on the trigger in Memphis on April 4," the attorney contended, "was acting consciously or otherwise as a representative of a large group of people who oppose Dr. King . . ." This, he maintained, meant that the murder was a political crime and as such was specifically excluded from offenses subject to extradition.

David Calcutt, the attorney representing the U.S., retorted that in a political offense the motive is critical and that the crime had to be in furtherance of a larger enterprise. In the case of Ray, he said, all the evidence pointed the other way.

There was "no evidence of a conspiracy in Dr. King's murder, no evidence that Ray was working with another man," he said.

The judge rejected a defense contention that a technical difference in terminology meant that Ray could not be extradited for armed robbery, for which he was convicted in 1960 and was serving a 20-year sentence in Missouri State Penitentiary until his escape last year.

"Robbery with violence" and "armed robbery" are analagous offenses, the Magistrate said.

The next legal move now rests with Ray's court-appointed solicitor, Michael Eugene, who works with Frisby.

An appeal would take the form of a application within 15 days for a writ of habeas corpus to the divisional court of the high court. If the application were granted, the case would be reargued before the high court, whose decision is subject to a final appeal to the Law Lords of the House of Lords.

London View of Ray: Friendless Bungler

WP JUL 5 1968

By Karl E. Meyer

Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, July 4—An exhaustive Scotland Yard investigation into the London life of James Earl Ray has led senior police officials to three judgments about him: while here, he was friendless, almost penniless and highly accident-prone.

A squad of ten detectives has been working full-time on the case of the man accused of killing the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. since his arrest on June 8 at London Airport under the name of Ramon George Sneyd. Several thousand people have been questioned about Ray's movements in London from May 17 until his arrest.

One major blank spot remains. British police still do not know where Ray was staying for the first ten days after his arrival. But the belief is that he was staying in a cheap and obscure rooming house in London, and not in a private residence. Ray himself has reportedly said he does not remember where he stayed.

The major find made by detectives is that a set of fingerprints matching Ray's have turned up on a paper bag thrown to a cashier during the robbery of a London bank.

The robbery occurred on the afternoon of June 4 when a man wearing sun glasses walked into the Trustees Saving Bank on bustling North End Road in Fulham. The man pulled out a gun and said to the counter clerk, "Put some money in this." He escaped with about £100 ($240) in 5-pound notes.

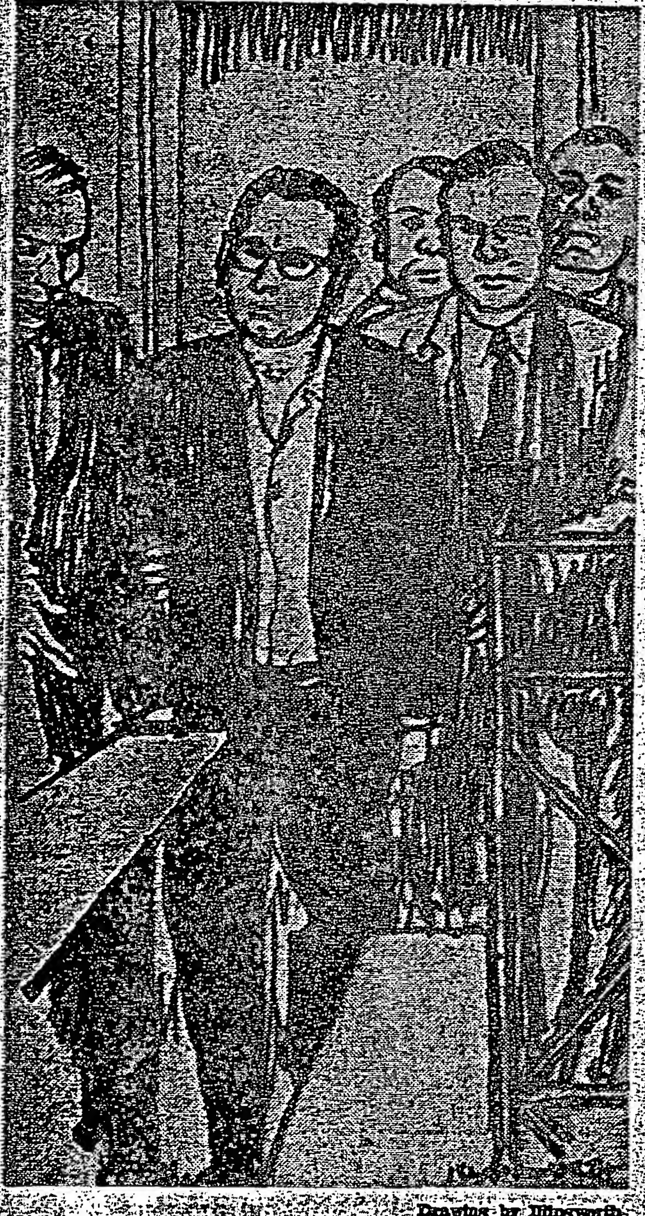
Immediately after the robbery, the clerk described the gunman as being about 40 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, suntanned with wavy black hair and possibly of mid-European origin. He wore a blue suit and his face was not masked.

The bank, one of 45

See RAY, A8, Col. 3

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

Ray a Friendless Bungler in



Drawing by Illingworth

Ray in Bow Street Court for extradition ruling.

RAY, From A1

branches of London Trustees, is a small office with five cash windows. It is on a busy shopping street in a working-class district and adjoins a narrow street called Clem Attlee Parade.

The white bag left behind by the robber was turned over to Scotland Yard's fingerprint bureau and was first dusted with a recently developed chemical used to disclose fingerprints on paper. It was then put under heat, yielding a clear impression of prints that matched those of Ray.

British police first became aware that the 40-year-old American might be in London a week before his arrest. Scotland Yard was informed that the Canadian Royal Mounted Police had found that Ray was travelling under the name of Ramon George Sneyd and was London-bound.

If Ray had been travelling under an American passport, it would have been easy for police to determine immediately if he had entered Britain. But Canadians, as members of the Commonwealth, are subject to less rigorous immigration controls.

The Scotland Yard officer in charge of the case has been Chief Inspector Kenneth Thompson, who for 29 years has specialized in offenses involving illegal immigrants and false passports. When word reached Thompson that Ray might be in England, the inspector issued an "all-port warning."

There are usually only a few names on the "all-port warning" list, which is given to special branch detectives at every point of entry into Britain. One of the officers who had this list was Detective Sgt. Philip Birch, who at 11:30 a.m. on June 8 was standing next to the immigration desk at building No. 2 in London Airport.

When Ray came to the desk and showed his Canadian possport, the immigration officer noticed that he had a second Canadian passport in his wallet and asked why. This was the initial warning-signal that first brought Ray to the attention of Sgt. Birch, who, when he saw the name "Sneyd" immediately called Chief Inspector Thompson.

Ray's apparent carelessness in letting an official see the second passport is felt to be typical of his proneness to accidents. Police believe that Ray's past record of almost comically bungled crimes in America, and his behavior during stops in Toronto and Lisbon, are consistent with the maladroit London pattern.

British police have found no evidence that Ray had or made any friends while he was in Britain. The only time any witness saw Ray with anyone else during his London stay was on June 4, the day he left a hotel in Earls Court to find a new place to stay.

Ray turned up at a YWCA hostel on Warwick Way in Victoria. The hostel, despite its name, also provides rooms for men, and the

London, Scotland Yard Finds

woman at the desk saw Ray with a young blond man who she thought was an American. Ray was told that there was no room at the hostel, and was referred to the Pax Hotel, three doors down the same street.

When Ray turned up at the Pax Hotel he was alone. He then spent most of his time in his room. The only mail he received was a postcard from Ian Colin, a Daily Telegraph reporter whom Ray had called to seek information about getting in tough with European mercenaries.

British police believe that the whole purpose of his trips to London and Lisbon, and of the trip he was planning to make to Brussels, was to join up with white mercenaries, probably in Biafra, which is fighting for independence from Nigeria.

When he left the Pax Hotel on June 8, two paperback novels were found in his room. One was a yellow-covered thriller, "Tangier Assignment" by Cameroun Rougvie. It is described by its blurb: "In a time of Suez crises, the Mediterranean, from Tangier to Port Said, seethes with nationalist revolt, international intrigue, Mafia villainy and freebooting contrabandists. Helped by the lovely Sandra Grant, this is precisely the situation on which Robert Belacourt thrives . . . although many interests would rather see him dead."

Written in the back flyleaf of the novel was the calculation "2.40 times 6 equals 14.40." At the time of his arrest, Ray had about 60 pounds on him.

If he was a big-time operator, with powerful friends and a massive bankroll, he concealed it completely during a London visit remarkable chiefly for its banality.

WP JUL 4 1968

Alabama Attorney Sets 2d Ray Visit

Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, July 3—Arthur J. Hanes, the American attorney for James Earl Ray, is due to arrive in London Friday for an unexpected second visit to see his client, who is facing extradition to the United States on charges of murdering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Hanes spoke by telephone today with Michael Eugene, Ray's British solicitor.

Ray had volunteered a statement at his extradition hearing on Tuesday complaining that the Home Office had prevented him from seeing Hanes, whom he had employed by letter, when the American arrived for his first visit on June 20.

Apparently there was a mixup. The Home Office asserted that it received a request from Ray on June 25 for an interview with his attorney at Wandsworth Prison. The request was granted the same day, but Hanes had already flown back to Alabama.

Meanwhile, a British newspaper reported today that Scotland Yard has apparently linked Ray's fingerprints to a London bank robbery.

The Evening Standard said that a bank in the Fulham area was robbed sometime before June 8 by a lone armed raider, who made off with about $240. The robber left a paper bag behind and it was subsequently "baked" in the Yard's fingerprint department, disclosing prints that reportedly matched the American suspect's.

Yard officials declined to confirm or deny the story.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

F.B.I. ACCUSES GALT OF A CONSPIRACY IN DR. KING SLAYING

Alleges a Plot With Man He Said Was a Brother to Violate Victim's Rights

FUGITIVE WARRANT OUT

Hoover Places Suspect in Memphis at Time of Killing —Two Photos Released

Text of the F.B.I. statement is printed on Page 46.

By EVERT CLARK

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 17—The Federal Bureau of Investigation issued a fugitive warrant today charging Eric Starvo Galt, described as a 36-year-old "loner," with conspiracy in the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. King's assassin has been sought since the civil rights leader was killed by a rifle bullet on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis on April 4.

The F.B.I. said Galt conspired beginning about March 29 with a man "whom he alleged to be his brother" to "injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate" Dr. King. The conspiracy continued until about April 5, the agency said.

Attorney General Ramsey Clark announced that Galt was being sought as a fugitive on the charge of having conspired to violate Dr. King's civil rights, in violation of Title 18, Section 241, of the United States Code.

The maximum penalty on conviction under this law is a $5,000 fine and a 10-year prison sentence.

Announcement by Hoover

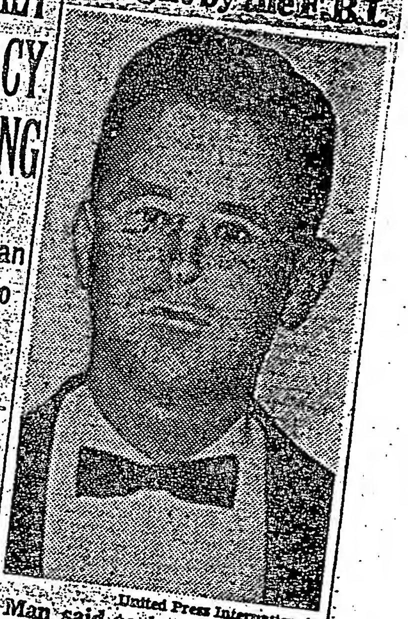
An announcement by J. Edgar Hoover, F.B.I. director, placed Galt in Memphis at the time of the killing and said he then left for Atlanta.

It said that Galt, "who has used the names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer in the past," owned the white 1966 Mustang automobile bearing Alabama license plates that was found abandoned in Atlanta one week after the ssassination.

John Willard was the name ven in Memphis by a man

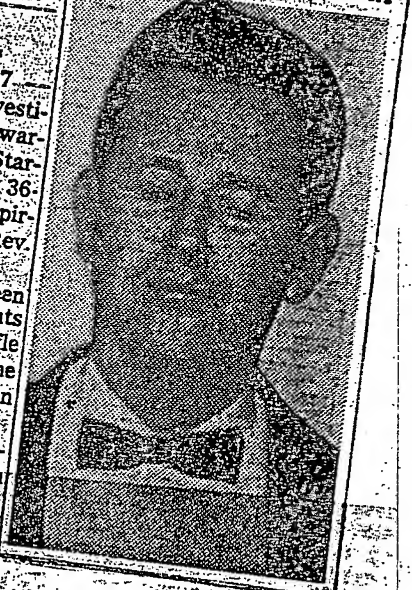
ontinued on Page 46, Column 4

Sought by the F.B.I.



United Press International

Man said to be Eric Starvo Galt. The eyes were painted in by an F.B.I. artist. Original picture is below.



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New York Times
18 April 1968

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

201-832

GALT IS ACCUSED OF A CONSPIRACY

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

who fled from a rooming house near the Lorraine Motel just after Dr. King was shot. The man had taken a room in the house, and the fatal shot is believed to have been fired from a bathrom window there.

There was no explanation of the Lowmyer alias.

The Mustang found in Atlanta resembled one seen speeding away from the assassination area.

Sources close to investigators in Memphis said that the Memphis police had almost run Galt down as they went to the murder scene.

The Federal warrant was issued in Birmingham, Ala., where Mr. Hoover said that a 30-'06-caliber rifle equipped with a telescopic sight had been found near a rooming house on South Main Street in Memphis immediately after the shooting. He said an F. B. I. agent had determined that that rifle and a telescopic sight was bought from a gun dealer in Birmingham on March 30.

Suspect Described

The announcement did not directly link Galt to the rifle found in Memphis or say that the 30'06 was the weapon that killed Dr. King.

Galt was described as 5 feet 8 to 5 feet 11 inches tall, weighing between 160 and 175 pounds and having "brush-cut" brown hair and blue eyes.

"He is said to be a neat dresser and has a medium build," the F.B.I. said.

Those who have met him describe him as a loner and say his "language and diction have a 'rural' quality and suggest that he probably does not have a high degree of education," the agency said.

Galt was said to like vodka, beer and Western and country music and to have a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an ear lobe, the F.B.I. added.

"His left ear protrudes farther from his head than his right ear," it said.

The F.B.I. released two photographs of Galt, one with his eyes closed and another containing a notation on the back: "Eyes drawn in by F.B.I. artist."

The man whom the agency said Galt had alleged was his brother was not further identified in the announcement here.

Galt traveled extensively in this country and went to Mexico after he bought the white Mustang from a private

Angeles, New Orleans, Birmingham and Mexico as well to Memphis and Atlanta," the F.B.I. announcement said.

The suspect left Los Angeles last Dec. 15, drove to New Orleans and "claimed he contacted either an engineering firm or a contracting firm," according to theagency.

He left New Orleans four days later and arrived in Los Angeles on Dec. 21. The agency said.

There was no indication why he had been in touch with the company.

Took Bartending Course

While he was in Los Angeles, Galt "took a course at a school of bartending and was graduated on March 2, 1968," the agency said.

The announcement did not attempt to trace Galt's whereabouts day by day or even week by week. But it placed him in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965, in Birmingham last September and October and in Long Beach, Calif., from last December until last February by saying he took dancing lessons in those places at those times.

"He is said to be an avid dancer," the announcement said.

It also said intensive investigation by the F.B.I. had disclosed that Galt "has claimed to have been employed as a cook on Mississippi River vessels and as a merchant seaman."

Galt should be considered "armed and dangerous" and any information about him should be furnished immediately to the nearest F.B.I. office, the announcement added.

The F.B.I. refused to say where it got Galt's photograph. The pictures show him in a dark suit and a neat, dark bow tie; he might have been wearing a tuxedo at the time. One picture appeared to have been cut out and placed on a different background, as though it might have been taken from a group picture, such as one taken at a nightclub.

Sketch Shown Previously

The photographs were the first to be connected with the case, although F.B.I. agents have been showing a full-face sketch of a suspect to hundreds of persons all through the South.

There was nothing in today's statements to indicate what role the F.B.I. thought the alleged other conspirator played or whether there might be still other suspected conspirators.

Galt's name was first publicly linked with the King murder on April 11, when an F.B.I. bulletin was released in Florida, apparently by mistake, and later withdrawn. The bulletin asked that Galt be located for questioning.

On April 12 the Mustang was found in Atlanta. It apparently had been parked there since about 12 hours after the murder. It was impounded after residents of the housing development where it was found noted that it matched the description of the car wanted in the murder.

The section of the United States Code under which Galt is accused states:

"If two or more persons conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or because of his having so exercised the same; or

"If two or more persons go in disguise on the highway, or on the premises of another, with intent to prevent or hinder his free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege so secured—

"They shall be fined not more than $5,000 or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both."

Memphis Hopes to Try Galt

MEMPHIS, April 17 (UPI)—Tennessee authorities indicated tonight that they would file murder charges in the assassination of Dr. King.

"That will be our immediate consideration," Memphis Fire and Police Director Frank Holloman said in answer to a question of whether there were plans to issue a warrant for the arrest of Galt.

"We look forward to the apprehension of this individual and his ultimate return to Memphis for trial for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," Mr. Holloman said.

He would not elaborate on the statement.

Galt Eludes F.B.I. Agents in California; Thousands of

By MARTIN WALDRON

Special to The New York Times

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., April 18—Eric Stavro Galt, the suspected assassin oft be Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., apparently eluded the Federal Bureau of Investigation in California last night, a source said today.

The source said that agents believed that they were close to the 36-year-old Galt after Attorney General Ramsay Clark announced that a warrant had ben isued for Galt's arrest.

When the arrest did not materialize last night, thousands of wanted posters asking for the public's help in locating Galt were distributed around the nation.

Galt was charged in Birmingham yesterday by the F.B.I. with a conspiracy to violate Dr. King's civil rights, and was charged in Memphis by the state of Tennessee with murdering the 39-year-old civil rights leader with a single rifle shot on April 4.

An unidentified brother of Galt's was said in the F.B.I. complaint to be a co-conspirator. No warrant has been issued for the arrest of the brother, and the bureau has refused to discuss him.

A source in the bureau indicated that the brother might have supplied information. Speculation that the bureau had the brother in custody brought a denial from headquarters in Washington.

"The F.B.I. has no one in custody in connection with Dr. King's slaying," the bureau said.

Galt is known to have twice mentioned a brother in the last two months. The first mention came when he is reported to have told a clerk in a Birmingham gun store that he and his brother planned to go hunting.

Agent Joseph H. Gable, in charge of the Birmingham bureau, said in the complaint that the rifle found discarded on a Memphis street near the scene of Dr. King's slaying had been bought by Galt on March 30, 1968.

The clerk at the gun store refused today to answer questions about the rifle sale.

The Remington Arms Company of Bridgeport, Conn., and the Memphis police have said that it was a 30-'06 caliber Remington rifle with a telescopic sight.

A second mention by Galt of a brother was reported when he was about to be graduated from a bartenders' school in Hollywood in March. He turned down a job because, he is reported to have said, because he had to go see his brother.

There was an indication that the F.B.I. still had not learned whether Eric Starvo Galt, was a fictitious name, although the agency was reported yesterday to have decided that it was.

Agents were searching through the files of Birmingham bail bondsmen, looking for old bail bonds under the name Galt.

In his nationwide bulletin for the pick-up of Galt, the bureau did not mention where Galt had been born, where he had lived, whether he was married and what his occupation was.

The only schooling mentioned was dancing lessons and a course in bartending. This information was developed in California this week.

2 Alaises Mentioned

The wanted poster mentioned two aliases, Harvey Lowmyer and John Willard.

Until yesterday, agents were still trying to find out at rooming houses in Birmingham of Galt had checked into one of them in the last few weeks. The proprietors of 10 of 21 rooming houses checked in Birmingham said that agents had questioned them this week.

There was no mention of a possible motive in the F.B.I. complaint.

The details of the murder charge filed in Memphis have ben kept secret by the state. A police spokesman said there that the details of the charge would not be released until Galt was in custody.

The bureau's photographs of Galt have drawn conflicting reactions from persons in Birmingham, Memphis and Atlanta who have told the F.B.I. that they had seen Galt recently.

Most of the witnesses have said that the photographs did not appear to be that of the man they had seen.

Mr. Gamble, the Birmingham agent, said last night that a photograph of Galt was taken in Birmingham last month. Today, it was reported that the photograph came from Galt's application at the bartenders' school.

Menawhile, the drivers' license division of the Alabama Highway Patrol said again that it mailed a duplicate of Galt's driver's license to him at a Birmingham address on March 1, 1968, a date that the F.B.I. said Galt was in California.

Duplicate License Sought

The Highway Patrol spokesman said that a telephone caller, identifying himself as Eric Galt, had asked for a duplicate of the original license that was issued to him last September.

The envelope with the duplicate license contained a bill for 25 cents to cover the cost, and the 25 cents was paid promptly. The Highway Patrol said it received the money on March 6.

New York Times
19 April 68

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

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Wanted Posters Distributed in Nation

The complaint filed by Mr. Gamble read:

"On or about March 29, 1968, at Birmingham, Ala., in the northern district of Alabama, Eric Starvo Galt and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate Martin Luther King Jr., a citizen of the United States, residing in Atlanta, Ga., in the free exercise and enjoyment of his rights secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States, namely the rights to freely travel from state to state.

"In furtherance of this conspiracy, Eric Starvo Galt did on or about March 30, 1968, purchase a rifle at Birmingham, Ala., all in violation of Section 241, Title 18, United States Code.

"And the complainant states that this complaint is based on the purchase of the weapon used to carry out the conspiracy in Birmingham, Ala., on or about March 29, 1968; identification of the gun used by defendant found at the scene of the crime, and investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

The complaint was sworn to before United States Commissioner Mildred F. Sprague. Last night, Mrs. Sprague denied that such a complaint had been filed before her. Today she declined to explain why she had denied it.

Galt Recalled on Coast

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, April 18—Acquaintances of Eric Starvo Galt recalled him today as pleasant and intelligent but shy and somewhat mysterious.

The suspect apparently spent most of last December, January and February in the Los Angeles-Long Beach area.

He took lessons at the National Dance Studios in Long Beach from mid-December to Feb. 12, the manager, Rod Arvidson said, paying $465 in cash for a 50-hour course of instruction.

Galt left before completing the course, the manager said, with the explanation that he was concentrating on a bartending course so he could open a bar in Los Angeles.

Early in February, according to Tomás Reyes Lau, operator of the International School of Bartending in Hollywood, Galt paid $225 for a course that extended over the next four weekends.

He completed the course March 2, Mr. Lau said, but declined a proffered job, saying: "I have to leave to see my brother. What would it do for me to work only two or three weeks? I'd better wait until I get back to town and get a permanent job."

Galt telephoned a week later. Mr. Lau said, and again declined a job.

While taking the bartending course, Galt lived in a small hotel in Hollywood. Some individuals he gave as references at that time could not immediately be located.

The people who have known him recalled him clearly but had no notable recollections about him except that he had a Southern accent.

Personnel at the dancing school said he had spoken of operating a bar in the Mexican coast, yet did not appear to speak Spanish.

A Suspect Released

Special to The New York Times

ATLANTA, April 18—The police arrested a man this morning said to resemble Galt, but after questioning by F.B.I. agents he was apparently cleared and released.

The man, who said that he worked for a carnival, had just arrived in Atlanta from Valdosta, officials said. They said he had volunteered to accompany them to the Atlanta police headquarters for questioning this morning after someone reported him as resembling Galt's photograph.

No charges were lodged.

F.B.I.'s Statement on the Hunt for Galt

Following is the text of a statement released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation yesterday concerning a warrant issued for Eric Starvo Galt in the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.:

Attorney General Ramsey Clark announced today that Eric Starvo Galt is being sought by the F.B.I. as a fugitive on a Federal charge arising from the fatal shooting of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968.

Director J. Edgar Hoover stated that a Federal complaint was filed by the F.B.I. in Birmingham, Ala., today charging Galt with conspiring to violate the civil rights of Dr. King in violation of Title 18, Section 241 of the United States Code.

The F.B.I. complaint charges that "on or about March 29, 1968, in Birmingham, Ala., Eric Starvo Galt and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate Martin Luther King Jr. in the free exercise or enjoyment of a right secured to him by the constitution or laws of the United States, namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. In furtherance of this conspiracy Eric Starvo Galt did, on or about March 30, 1968, purchase a rifle at Birmingham, Ala.

Rifle Found

According to Mr. Hoover, a .30'06 rifle equipped with a telescopic sight was found near a rooming house on South Main Street in Memphis immediately after the fatal shooting of Dr. King occurred. The rooming house overlooks the Lorraine Hotel and Motel where Dr. King was staying.

Mr. Hoover said that F.B.I. agents determined that the .30-'06 rifle had been purchased from a gun dealer in Birmingham, Ala., on March 30, 1968. The telescopic sight was also purchased from this dealer.

The F.B.I. director said that Galt, who has used the names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer in the past, is the owner of a 1966 white Mustang bearing Alabama license plates which was located abandoned in Atlanta, Ga., on April 11, 1968.

Investigation disclosed that Galt purchased this car from a private citizen in Birmingham on Aug. 30, 1967. The Mustang odometer showed that it had been driven more than 19,000 miles between late August 1967, and early April 1968.

According to Mr. Hoover, Galt's travels in the Mustang included trips to Los Angeles, Calif.; New Orleans, La.; Birmingham, Ala., and Mexico, as well as to Memphis, Tenn., and Atlanta, Ga. Galt was reported to have been in Memphis on April 3 and 4, 1968, and to have departed from there for Atlanta.

Avid Dancer

Intensive investigation by the F.B.I. has disclosed that Galt has claimed to have been in Florida as a cook on Mississippi River vessels and as a merchant seaman. He is said to be an avid dancer and took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965; in Birmingham between September and October, 1967, and in Long Beach, Calif., from December, 1967, to February, 1968.

Galt left Los Angeles on Dec. 15, 1967, and drove his white Mustang to New Orleans, where he claimed he contacted either an engineering or contracting firm. He left New Orleans on Dec. [illegible] and arrived back in Los Angeles on Dec. 21, 1967.

While in the Los Angeles area earlier this year, Galt took a course at a school of bartending and was graduated on March 2, 1968.

The fugitive is described as a white male. He is approximately 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighs between 160 and 175 pounds. He is said to be a neat dresser and has a medium build.

Galt has brown hair which he wears in a "brush" cut. He reportedly has blue eyes; his nose is straight and narrow; his teeth are straight and clean; and he has given his date of birth as July 29, 1931.

Nervous Habit

The fugitive is said to have a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an ear lobe with his hand. His left ear protrudes farther from his head than his right ear.

According to Mr. Hoover, persons who have met Galt describe him as a "loner" and state his language and diction have a "rural" quality and suggest that he probably does not have a high degree of education. He is said to drink alcoholic beverages and has a preference for vodka and beer. He is a fan of Western and country music.

The Federal statute under which Galt has been charged provides a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and/or $5,000 fine. Bond of $50,000 has been recommended.

Galt should be considered armed and dangerous. Any information concerning him should be furnished immediately to the nearest F.B.I. office.

New York Times
18 Apr 68

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Date 19 AUG 1976

B.I. Hunt for Ray In Dr. King's Killing Stuns Prison Officials and Others Who Knew Him

By DOUGLAS E. KNEELAND

Special to The New York Times

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., April 22 — Prison officials and inmates at the state penitentiary here are still stunned that James Harl Ray, a convict who escaped a year ago, has been accused of conspiring in the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Last Wednesday the Federal Bureau of Investigation named Eric Starvo Galt, described as a 36-year-old "loner," a neat dresser and avid dancer, as a conspirator in the assassination April 4 of Dr. King in Memphis, Tenn.

Newspapers with pictures and sketches of Galt circulated behind the gray walls of the old penitentiary on the Missouri River, but no word of recognition was heard along the prison grapevine.

On Friday, the F.B.I. said Galt was Ray, a 40-year-old habitual criminal who escaped from the penitentiary here April 23, 1967, after having served seven years of a 20-year sentence for armed robbery.

Warden Harold R. Swenson said in an interview last night that the F.B.I. had not notified officials here before the announcement. Nor, he added, has any representative of the agency come to Jefferson City to look at Ray's record or interview prisoners who knew him.

'Doesn't Shape Up'

"I was floored," the white-haired warden said. "This guy's penny-ante. It doesn't shape up, does it?"

Thumbing through Rays' records, noting that his work reports in food service here were "pretty good," Mr. Swenson, who has been in prison work nearly 30 years, mostly in the Federal system, shook his head. "He's innocuous," he said. "Pennyante."

Noting that the pictures of Galt had meant nothing to the staff and that there had been no reaction from the inmates, the warden added: "If there's anyone who'd talk, it's the prisoners. Once a guy's gone they'll talk."

An aide strolled into the warden's office and interrupted. "We've got 2,000 prisoners in here," he said, "and none of them recognized him."

Continuing with Ray's file, Mr. Swenson said that the prisoner had received permission for four persons to visit him: two borthers, Jerry and John; his mother, Mrs. Lucille Ryan, and his grandmother, Mrs. Mary Maher. All were listed at the same address, 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis. But the warden said the file did not show whether any of them had visited Ray.

Aside from escape attempts in 1961 and 1966, the warden said, Ray was not a troublemaker in prison. His file showed only two minor disciplinary reports—one for trying to smuggle cigarettes and other contraband to a hospitalized prisoner and another for refusing to work. That is a highly unusual record, Mr. Swenson explained.

"He wasn't a big dealer," the warden went on. "We know these people. I've got 125 pictures here—he wasn't in that group. I was shocked. It didn't make any sense to me."

Prisoner Nervous

Another prison official, who asked not to be identified, came into the warden's second-floor office.

"This would seem foreign to the nature of the man up to this point," the official said.

Although it is against his policy, Warden Swenson agreed, because of national interest in the case, to allow an interview with the prisoner who had been closest to Ray, who was known as a close-mouthed loner without real friends or enemies. A condition of the interview was that the inmate would not be identified.

The prisoner, the work shirt of his faded green uniform open over a stained white T-shirt, entered the warden's office hesitantly. The other prisoners were wondering, he explained nervously, why he was being questioned.

Seated at a table in front of the warden's desk, dragging deeply on a cigarette, he slowly relaxed.

Shown a picture of Galt and asked if that was his friend, Ray, he shook his head vigorously.

"No, sir, not this," he insisted. "I guess I knew him about as well as anybody. He was here when I came here, in 1960. I knew him from about 1962, well, I associated with him right up to 1966 when he tried to escape."

'Just Couldn't Believe It'

Struggled for words as he tried to capture Ray's personality, the prisoner started to talk:

"I just don't know how to explain it," he said. "He was just the type of guy who took a long time, well, if you didn't know anybody he knew, well...

"The picture with the bow tie on [the F.B.I. photo of Galt], nobody thinks it's him. They think it's a different guy altogether. We think it's two different people altogether.

"Now they [the prisoners] say they're just trying to pin it on him because he escaped from here. They think they've got to lay it on somebody, so they're trying to lay it on him.

"I just couldn't believe it myself. If the man did kill that man, it had to be for money. That would be the onliest thing. He didn't seem like the kind of guy who would kill anybody. He was the type of guy you didn't fool with him, but he didn't fool with anybody.

"He wasn't the type of guy to tell you anything about himself. He never actually did come out and tell you what he did when he was outside. Anytime you'd get in a conversation with him it would be about money. A dollar here and a dollar there.

"He talked about money all the time. Trying to figure a way to make a dollar. Just little things. Maybe he'd buy something for a little bit and sell it for a little bit more. If a guy owed him anything, he'd bug him all the time. He didn't get into fights with them, but he'd hound them."

Ray did not smoke, the prisoner said, and "didn't say anything about girls," although he liked to read "sex magazines." Neither, he added, did Ray show any interest in dancing or Western and country music, which the F. B. I. said were favorites of Galt.

In addition to "sex magazines," the prisoner added, Ray

New York Times
23 April 1968

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

liked to read secret agent books.

Puzzling for a minute, thinking, he went on:

'I think the President even liked that book—James Bond—he liked James Bond." [President Kennedy was known as a reader of the late Ian Fleming's spy novels.]

As for politics, the prisoner said:

"He just didn't seem to be interested in it."

Negroes?

"He didn't dislike them. He didn't associate with them one way or the other. Although I think he did talk with them."

Ray did have another interest. Body building.

"He has a lot better build than a lot of people think he has. He did a lot of physical exercising, a lot of weight lifting and pull-ups and things like that."

Did Ray ever talk about what he would do when he got out?

"Actually, he never talked much about outside anyway," the prisoner said. "He just talked about getting outside. Everyone talks about getting out. He wanted out any way he could get out."

"I think he did say something once about getting in the maritime union," the prisoner added.

The man known as Galt is said to have identified himself at times as an unemployed merchant seaman.

Physically, Ray could fit some descriptions given of the man sought in the slaying of Dr. King. Records show him to be about 5 feet 11 inches tall, weighing between 160 and 170 pounds.

Some questions have been raised about his age, since the suspect described by some persons in Memphis was said to be younger than 40.

"I don't believe he'd look 40," his prisoner friend said. "I don't believe he'd go for the 20's either. I'd say somewhere right around 30."

Warden Swenson agreed.

But taking issue with another description of the man called Galt, the prisoner added:

"He wasn't what you'd call a neat dresser in here."

NY Times
23 Apr 68

Life 3 May 68

The story of the accused killer of Dr. King

This account is written by Associate Editor William A McWhirter, from reports by LIFE Correspondents Gerald Moore, Richard Woodbury, John Pekkanen, Frank Leeming Jr. and Ron DePaolo.

His name was Galt. Eric Galt. ERIC GALT. If you did not hear the name the first time, that was all right because Eric Starvo Galt was more than likely to repeat it, again and again, as if he were still trying to memorize the thing himself. It seemed new, out of place, like his manner, nervous and friendly and quickly withdrawn, like his $150 alligator shoes which did not go with the mismatch of blue pants, brown coats and Redi-Ty bow ties, like his puffy stomach which he rubbed worriedly as if it didn't quite belong to him. "I knew he was lying about his name," says a bar acquaintance, a songwriter who traveled with him from Los Angeles to New Orleans.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

"I just knew he wasn't an Eric. He was too country to be an Eric."

That is also what the Federal Bureau of Investigation concluded when it identified Eric Starvo Galt, the accused killer of Martin Luther King, as no more than a lean, battered wild-hair, a punk who was a local nuisance in half a dozen Mississippi River towns, a convict who had escaped a year ago in a bread truck from the bakery of the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City, just plain James Earl Ray.

Jimmy Ray was a child whose nose ran all winter, who missed anywhere from 25% to 30% of a school year, flinched when a teacher dared so much as to reach out an arm and sat painfully aware that to the other students in the Ewing, Mo. elementary school he was just another member of the family "out there on the side of that hill without enough to eat."

He had grown up mean in the thinnest of times and the toughest of places. Born March 10, 1928

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A Character Shaped

LIFE

Vol. 64, No. 18 May 3, 1968

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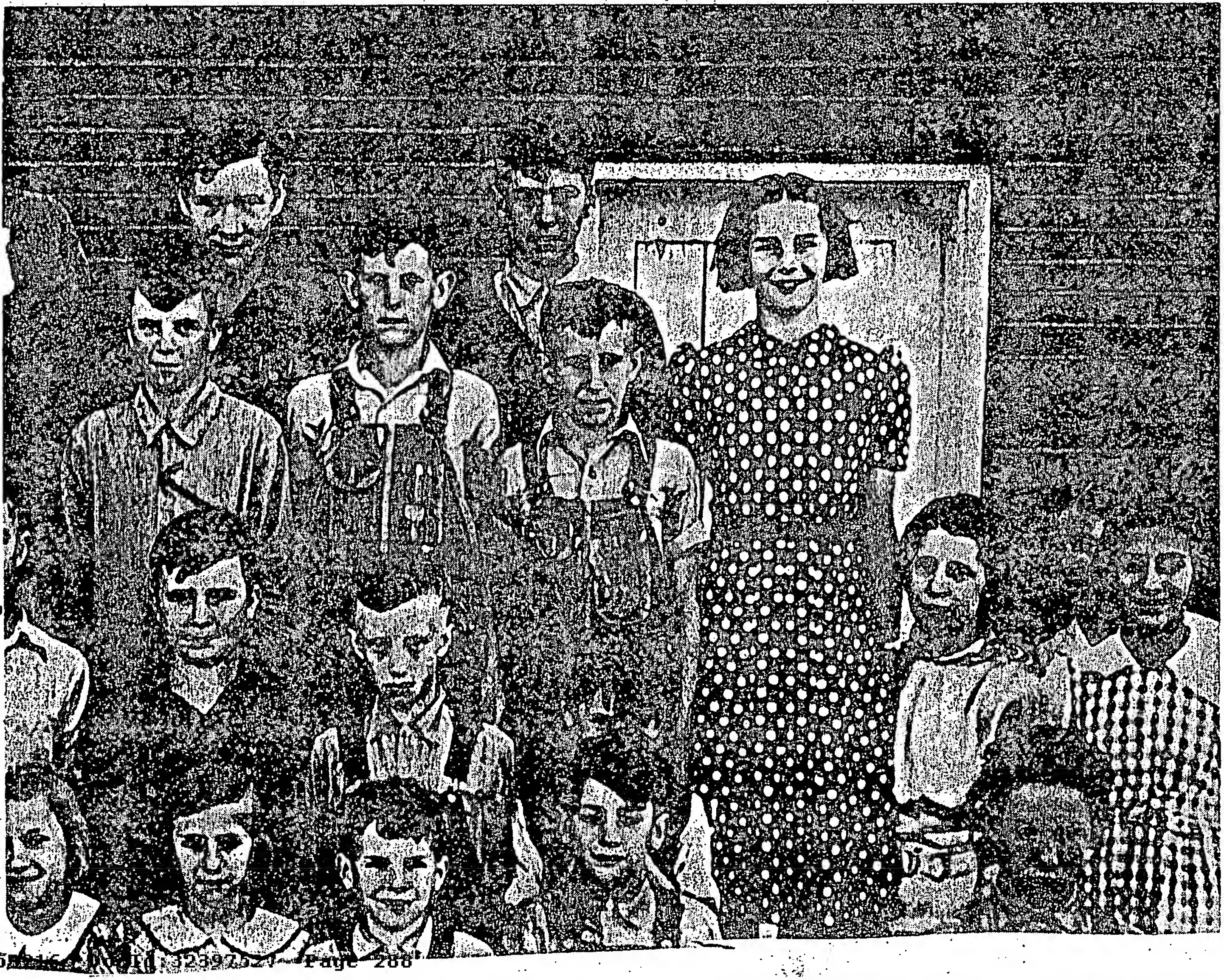
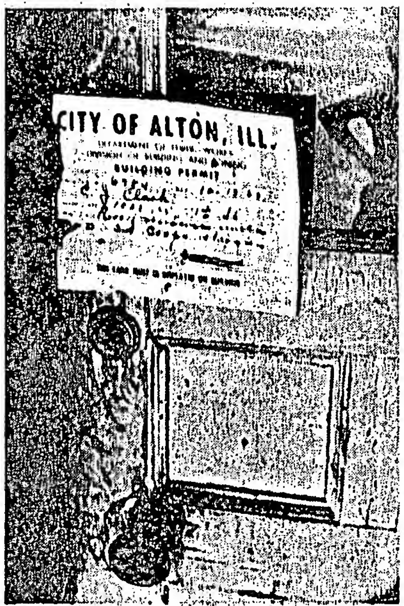
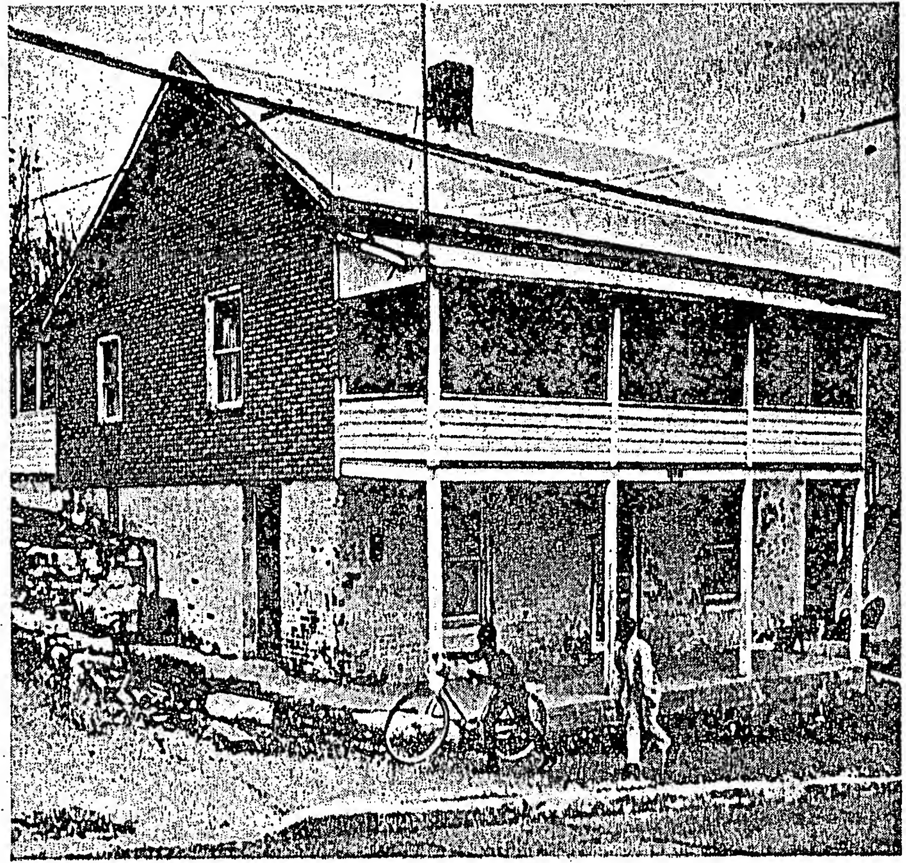


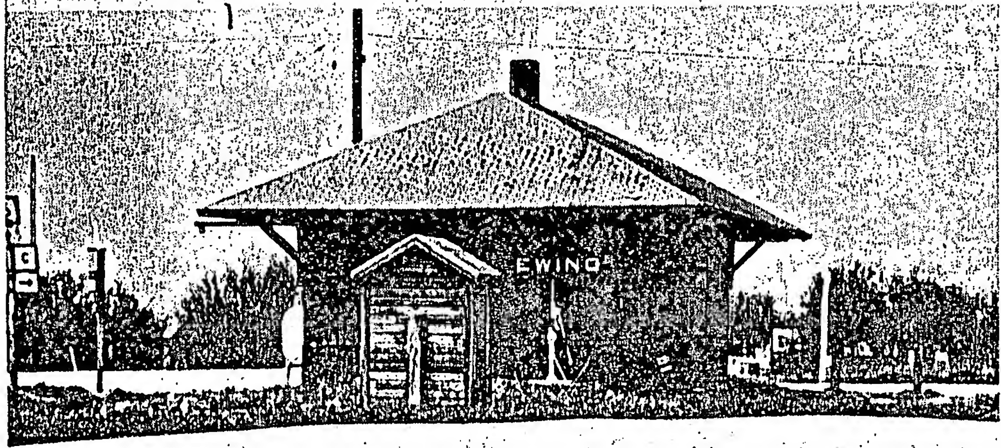
When the Ewing, Mo. grade school gathered for the picture at left in 1938, third-grader James Earl Ray (in third row at left of girl in polka dot dress) peered half-hidden over a classmate's head.

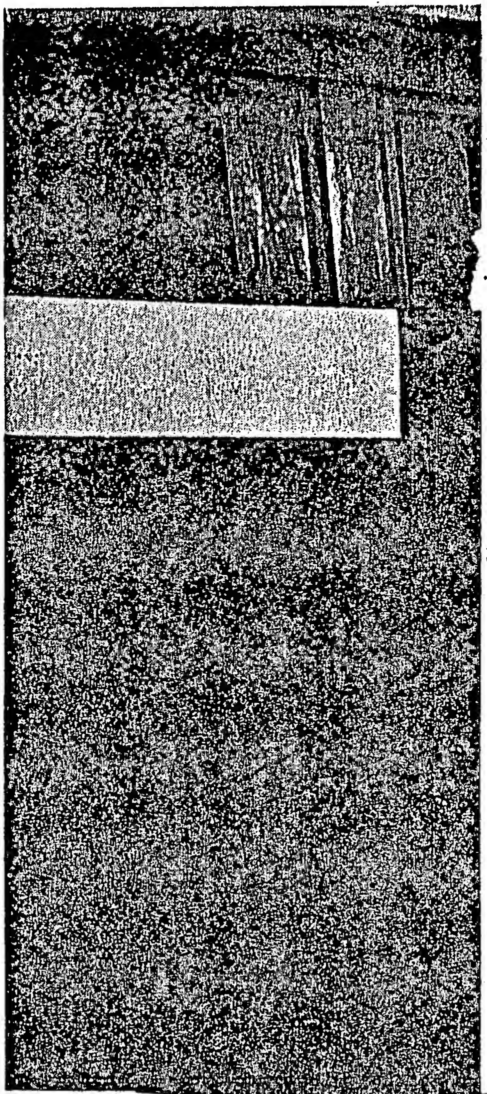
Growing up

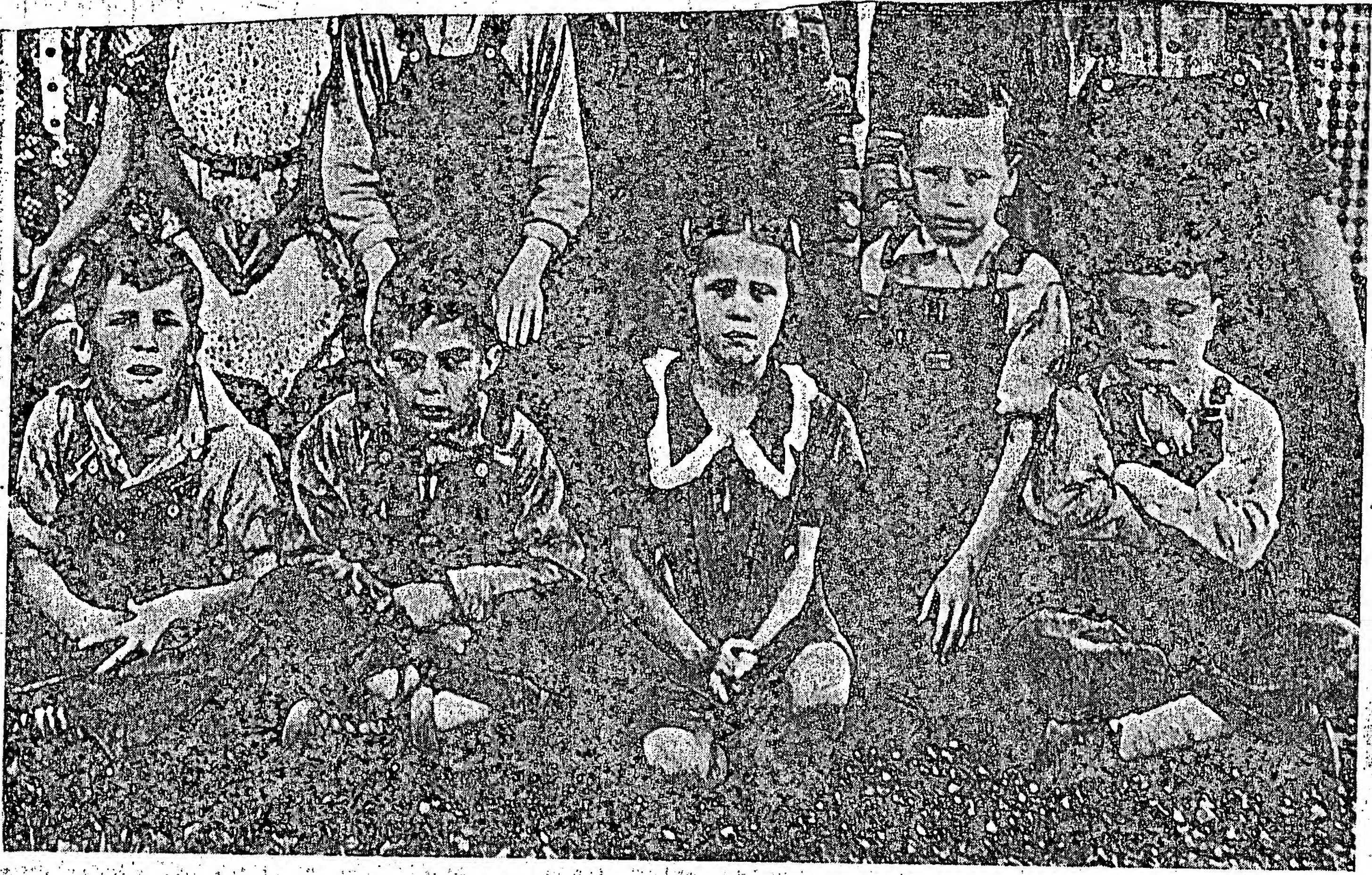

CITY OF ALTON, ILL.
BUILDING PERMIT



James Earl Ray was born in 1928 in the house at right in Alton, Ill.—the first of many shabby dwellings occupied by the indigent Ray family as they drifted from one Mississippi River town to another. The present owner recently got a permit (above) to have the roof fixed.



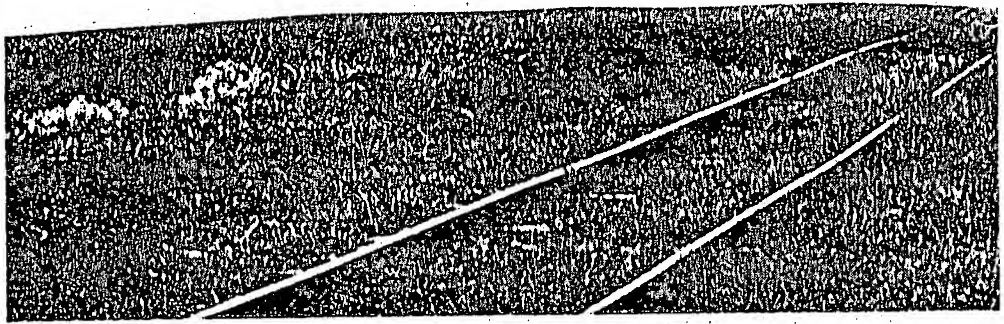




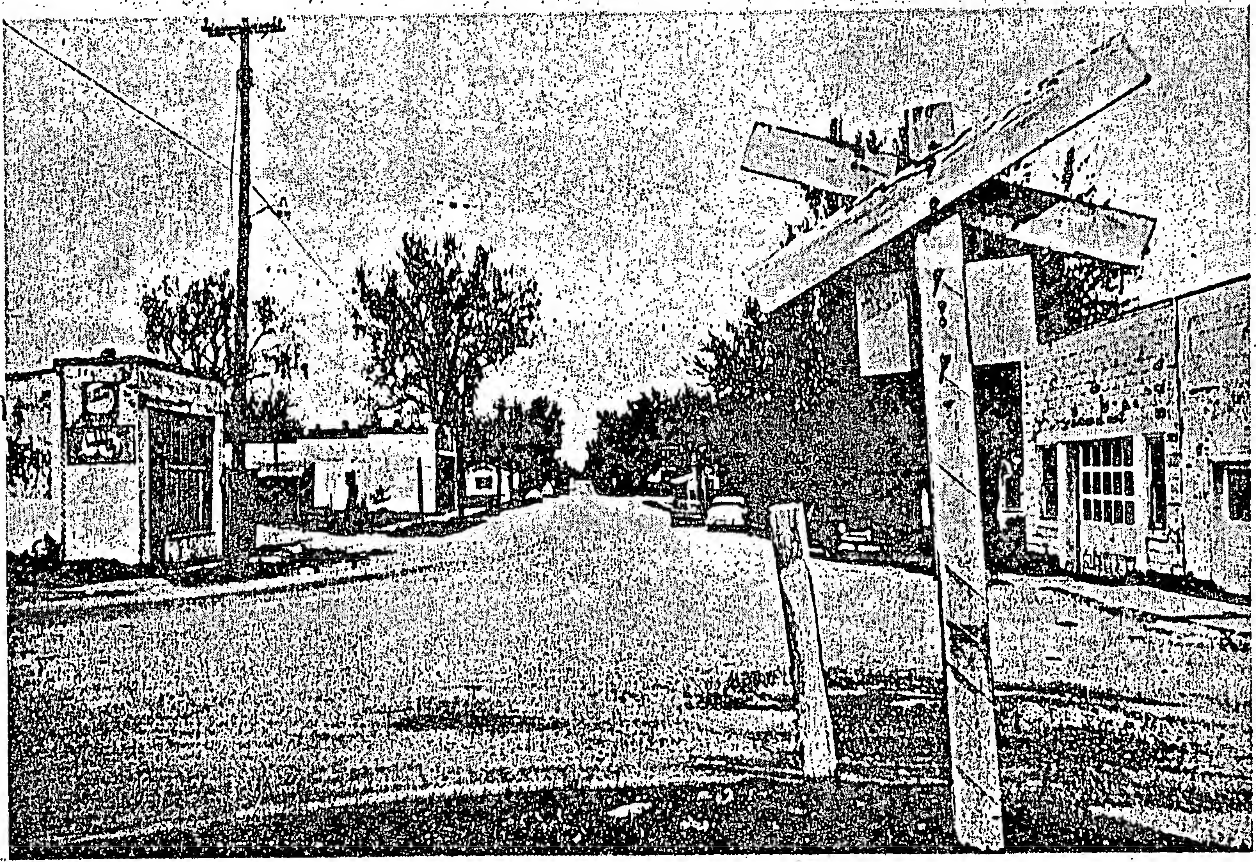
by a Mean Life

4

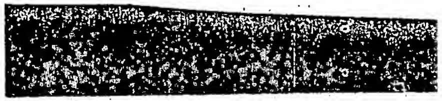
Among the two dozen former schoolmates and teachers who identified Jimmy Ray was Carlisle Washburn (front row, far right), who once broke Ray's leg playing football. Today Washburn (above) is Ewing's postmaster. Ray is shown below after his 1959 arrest in St. Louis for armed robbery.

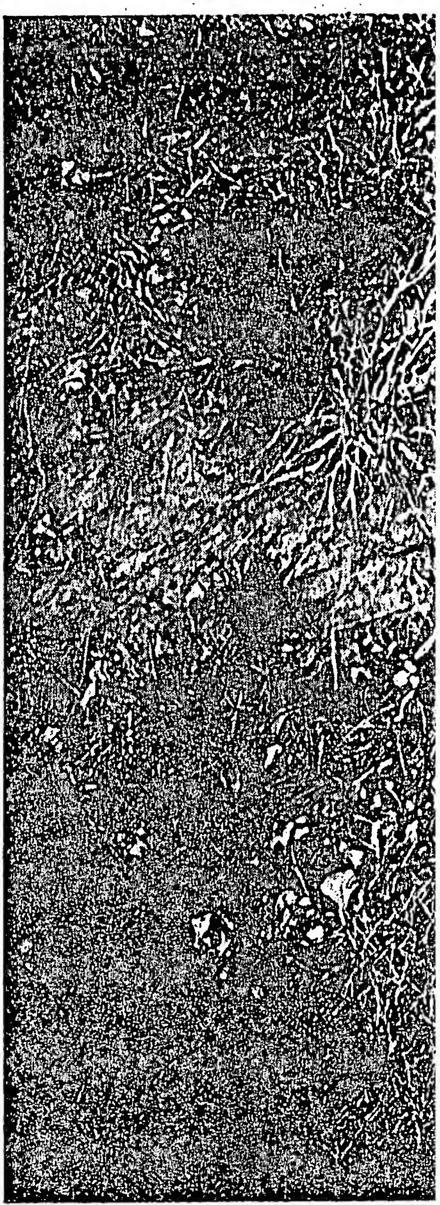


Ray spent his boyhood in Ewing, Mo. (pop. 324), a somnolent village where grass now grows on the abandoned railroad (above), and main street (below) looks pretty much as it always has. In 1944 the family moved to Quincy, Ill. and Ray, then 16, quit school.

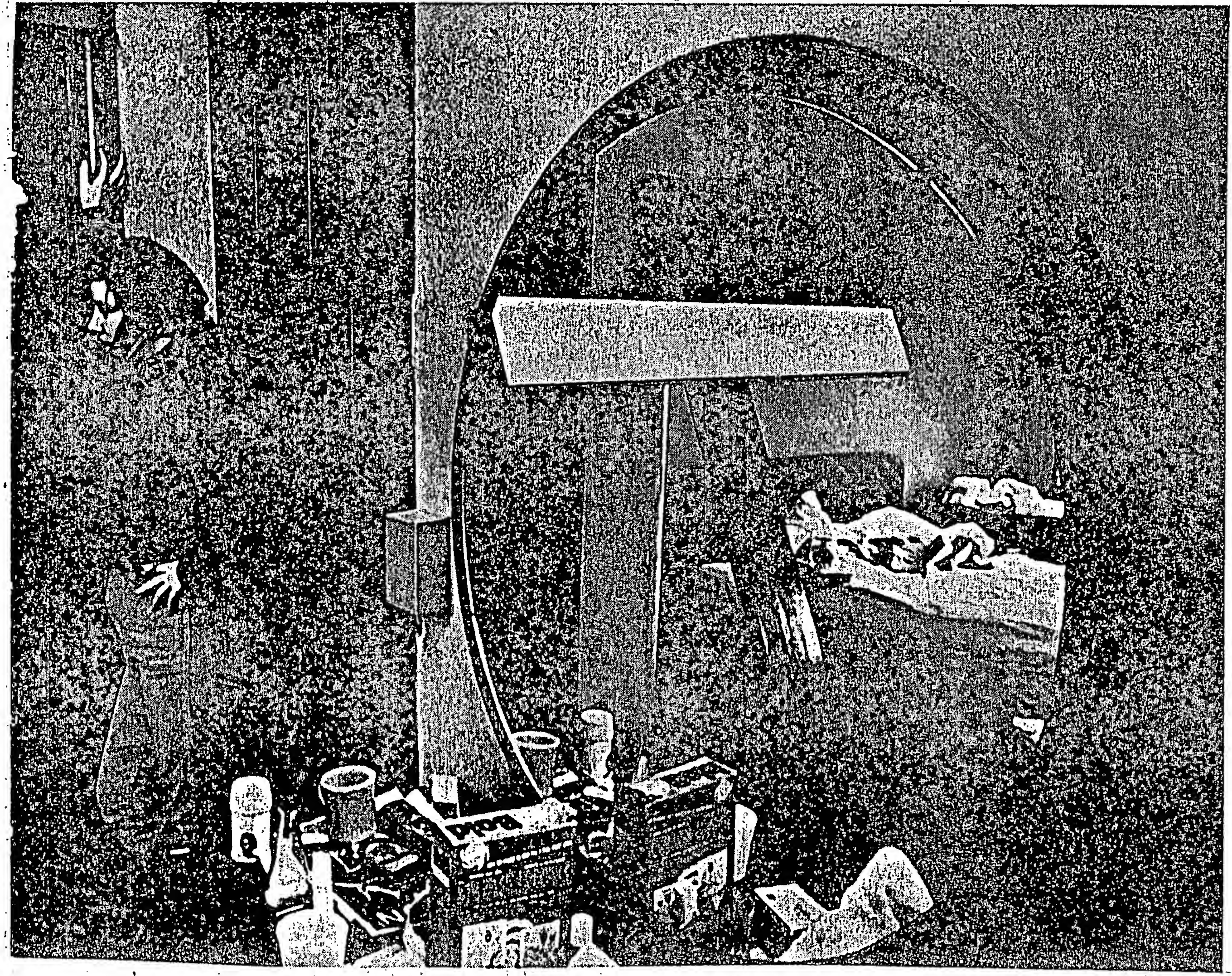


Ray's sister Susan, shown above in her high school yearbook, is now 21 and a North Chicago housewife. Another sister, Melba, 29, lives in a $1-a-day room in Quincy, where she keeps a large wooden cross (above, right). Their mother, who took the name Ryan after her husband died, lies in a pauper's grave (right) in North Alton.





in a series of ramshackle river towns



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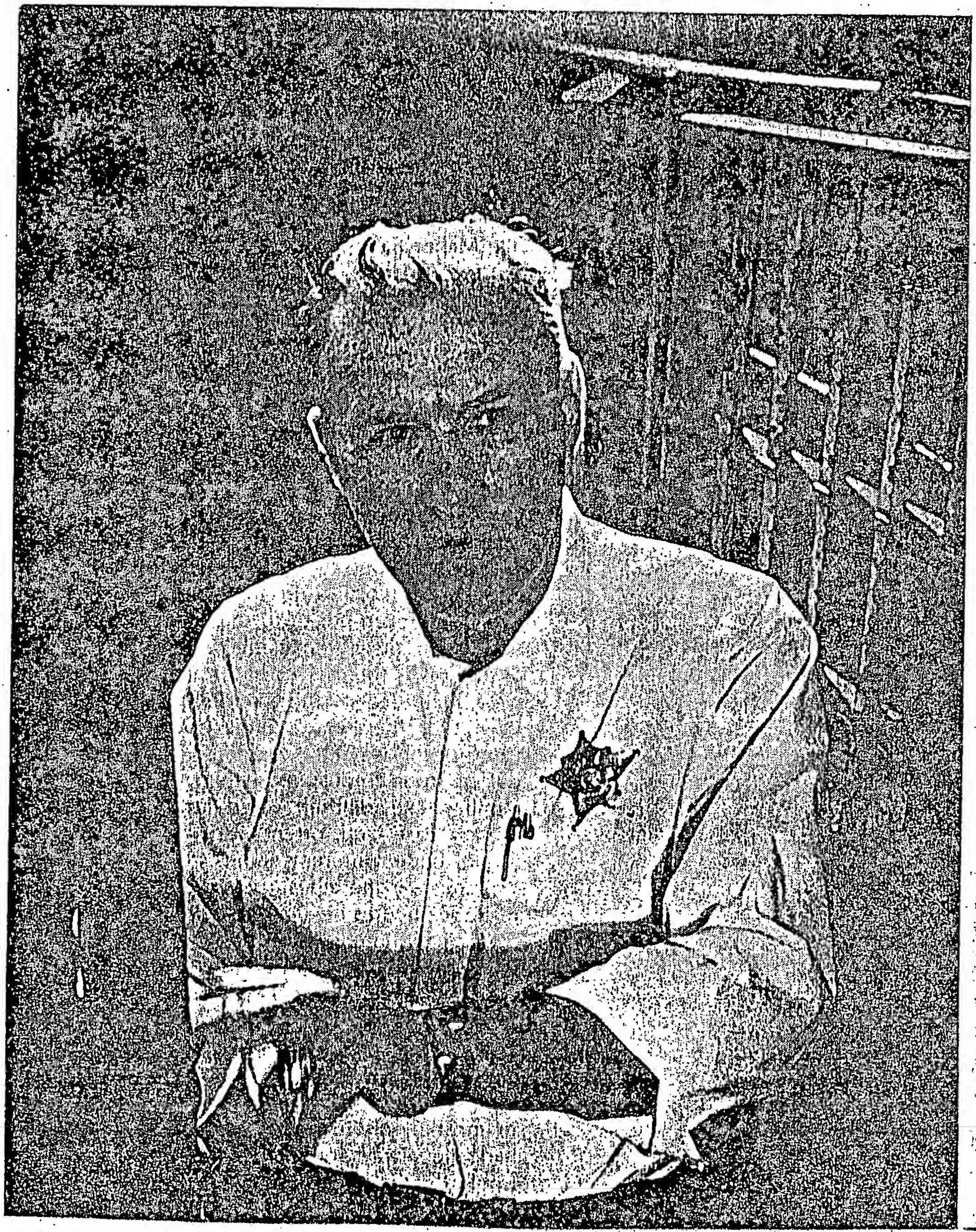
in Alton, Ill., he was the eldest of nine children of George and Lucille Maher Ray, a Catholic family that was to drift from river town to town throughout the Depression. When he was one year old, the family moved upriver to Quincy, Ill.; when he was 6, they moved across the river to Ewing, Mo., and when he was 16 and out of the eighth grade, they moved again to Quincy. The sight of the large, shiftless family coming where work was scarce was hardly a welcome one for communities with already too little to share. The family even began to think of itself with the same carelessness as the towns themselves had: they were identified as the Rayns, the Raynes or the Raines, either because of the way Ray was drawled out or from confusions with past families. The children cared little in any case and often went to school under different names.

Jimmy was the eldest, but he already seemed to be wearing hand-me-downs; in rural poverty, no age is ever old enough; there is always someone before you. Virgil Oscar Graves, who was principal of the Ewing school, recalls Ray: "He was a rebel. He rebelled against authority and his approach to most of his teachers was very bad. He always seemed to have trouble getting his assignments in on time. But he was a sensitive

One head-on encounter



LUCILLE MARY
RYAN
1909 – 1961

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boy. I remember he came up to my desk one day wearing patched overalls and asked whether I thought the other kids would pay attention to his appearance."

The school record was considerably more brusque. James Earl Ray was only in the second grade by the time he was being judged a menace to the Ewing community. The record declared:

"Attitude toward regulations—violates all of them.

"Honesty—needs watching.

"Appearance—repulsive.

"Courtesy—seldom if ever polite."

The Ewing school system also took note that his teeth were defective. By the time he was 14, Ray was still in the seventh grade and had slipped so far behind so many classes that everyone's sorriest predictions were confirmed. Ray only tried in endless scraps to make up for what the students, as much as five years younger, were doing to him in the classroom. He was an unmanageable bully. Once, in a fight over a piece of meat in the cafeteria, he ran a knife through his brother Jack's ear. In the sixth grade, he was caught stealing the class's hot-lunch money.

"The family had it pretty poor,"

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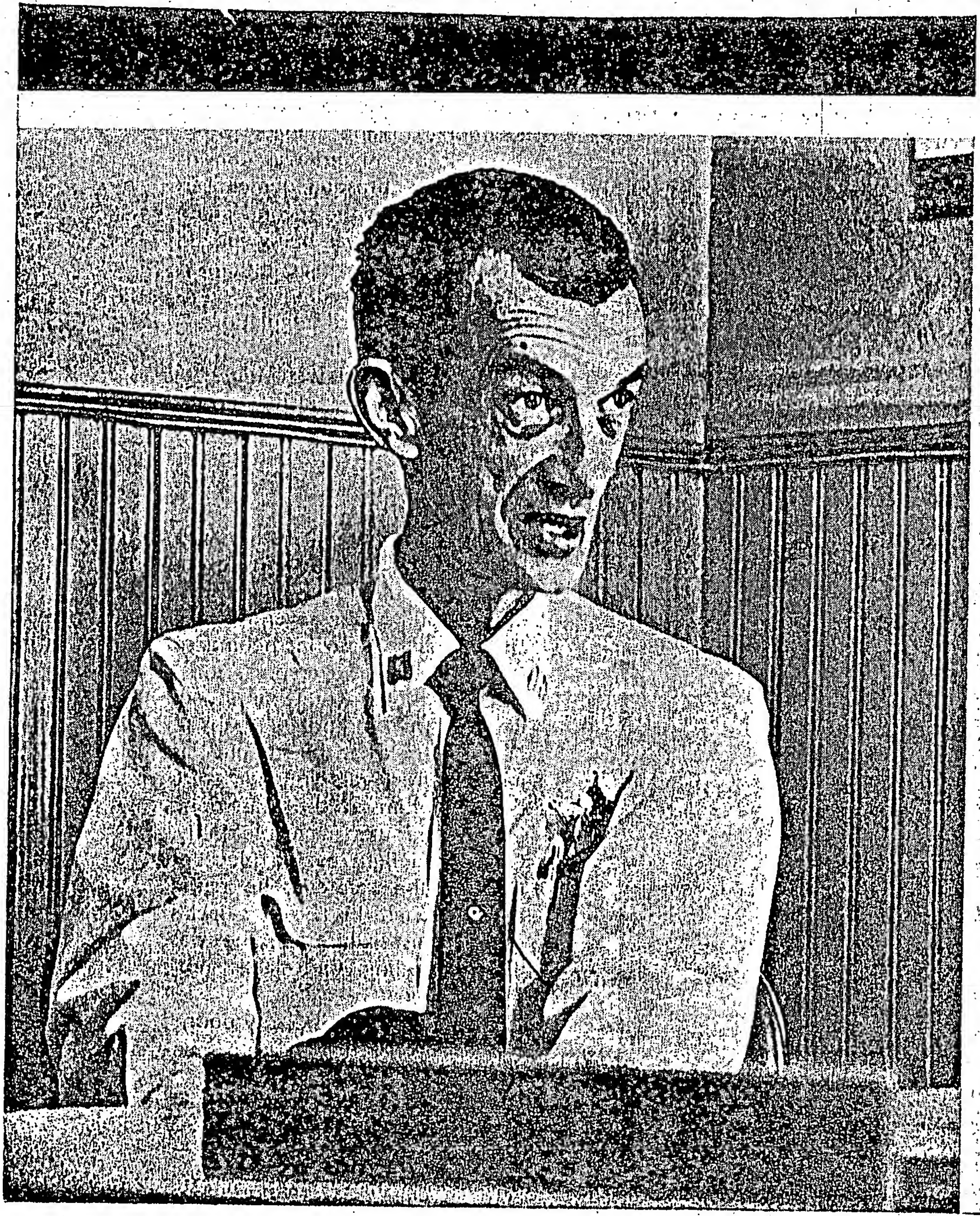
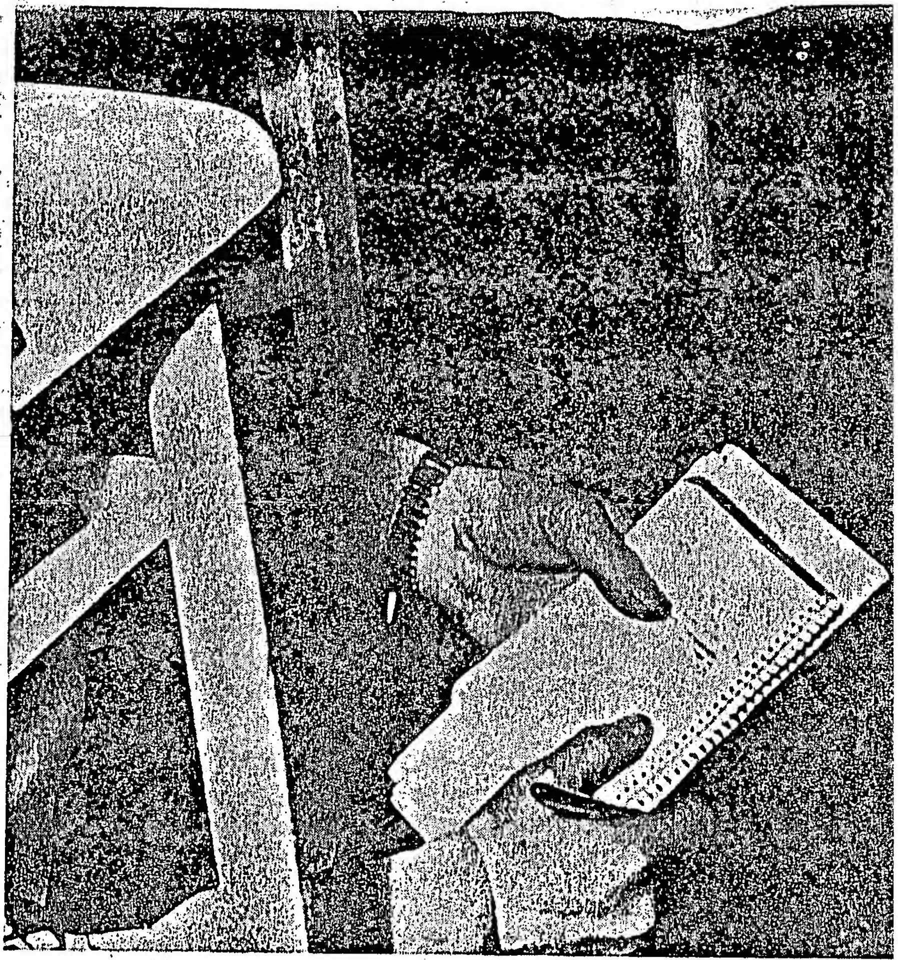
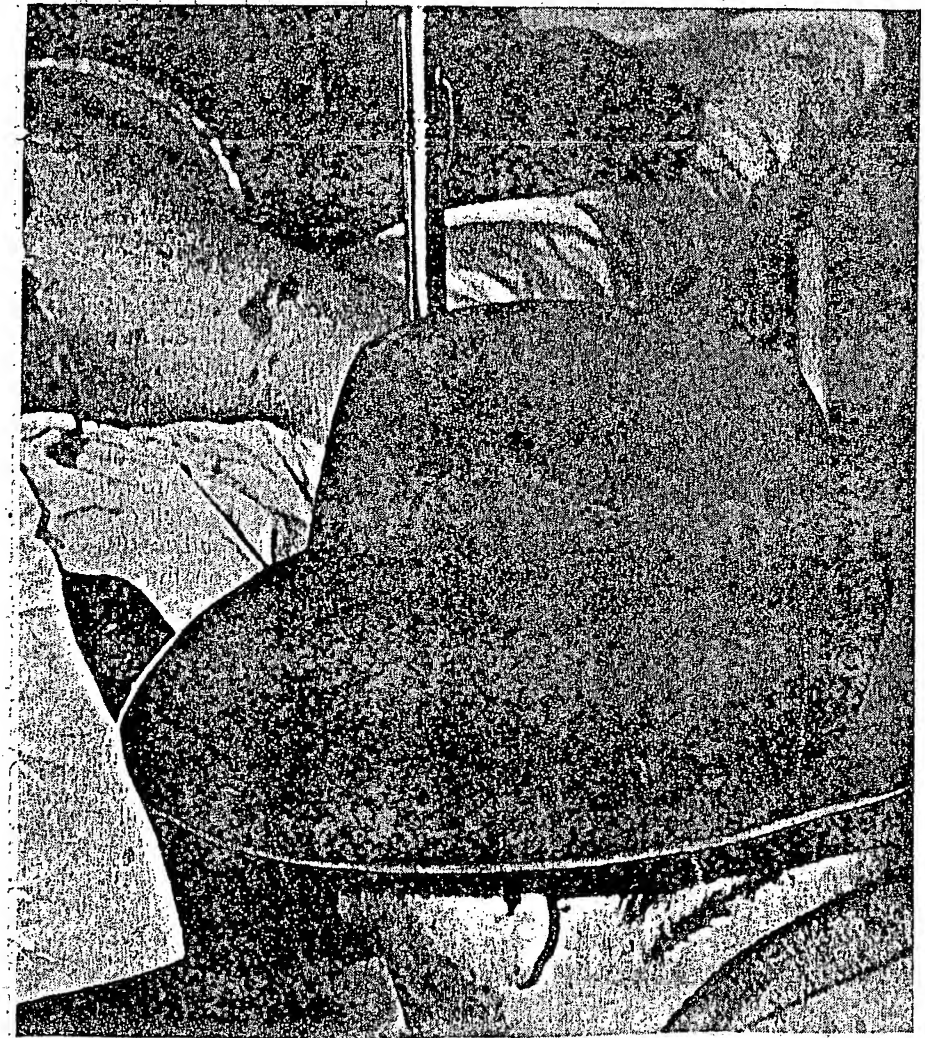




Wounded and captured minutes after he robbed a Chicago cabbie of $11 in 1952, Ray received emergency treatment (above). Trying to escape, he had run into a dead-end alley, was shot in the arms and fell through a basement window. After his release in 1954, Ray tried to rob a dry cleaner's in East Alton, Ill. This time he lost his shoes breaking out through the front window. Police had disabled

with cops after another



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remembers a local resident. "I've seen the time when they had a sack of potatoes to eat—that's all, just a sack of potatoes."

As they grew up, the Ray children were either to drift off or to be routinely placed in foster homes, seldom again seeing another member of the family. Even today, Gerald Ray, a brother, insists their father's name was George, while Jimmy Ray's birth certificate shows it was James. An uncle, William E. Maher, of Alton, says of the Rays: "We tried to stay away from them. They always seemed to want something."

Besides Jimmy, there were Marjorie Ray (who died as a child after setting herself on fire with a box of matches), John, Melba, Carol Jean, Gerald, Franklin "Buzzy" Delano (who was killed in 1964 when he and a girl friend ran their car off a bridge into the river at Quincy; the funeral provided one of the few Ray family reunions), Susan Jane and Max. The father died in 1951, most probably of chronic alcoholism; the mother in 1961. Of the other surviving Rays of Quincy, Melba Ray was in a succession of foster homes and today spends most of her time in the lobby of the decaying Virginia Hotel on Oak Street. Occasionally, she goes to her $30-a-month room upstairs to

parents. He has only his brother's example.

Susan Jane, John and Carol have now been joined with the rest of the scattered Ray clan in a kind of common notoriety. Behind their locked screen doors, they give their laments of pride and offense against Jimmy Ray. But it is not clear which the family members hate most: that Ray may have been responsible for such a hateful act or that their neighbors may now learn the truth of their past lives in Ewing and Quincy. Or that, perhaps, after years of obscurity and estrangement, this event may force the Rays together again.

Then there is Gerald (Jerry) Ray, who says simply, "Jimmy is my brother." Over the years, Jerry has been in trouble as often as Jimmy. But Jerry, who lives in Wheeling, Ill., today has grown accustomed to their separations and of the family is probably closest to his brother. "After we were grown," he says, "about the only times I could see him was when he was visiting me in jail or when I would visit him. One or the other of us was in jail most of the time. Jimmy wrote me a lot."

Jerry is, with his brother, a fellow professional ("A grocery

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store," he says, "is worth maybe $200, but a supermarket is worth about $1,500"), so he can be coolly analytical about the King case. As he told the FBI when discussing his brother's motives: "Well, look at it this way. Jimmy escaped. He had served seven years of a 20-year sentence. Because he escaped, he would be facing flat time if they caught him plus more time on him for escaping. He would have to steal while he was out to support himself so he knew he would get rapped extra for that. A deal with a lot of money would have looked pretty good to a man in that circumstance. He sure didn't have any love for colored people, but I know he wouldn't have put himself in a spot like this unless there was something in it for him."

In their last winter in Ewing, the Ray children had spent most of their time in bed for lack of heat in the home, which had only a dirt floor. They began tearing out the inside of the house to use for kindling until, in early spring, the remainder of the building simply collapsed around them. The Rays left Ewing soon afterward and James Earl Ray, who was then 16, little more than a town nuisance and an uneducated school bully, drifted off to join the Army.

Ray's service record is erratic but blunt enough about the failure of the following two years. If there was anything more miserable for Ray than competing with boys five years younger, it came in dealing with men his own age. There were enough battles to make his Army career look like a Golden Gloves circuit instead of a tour of duty spent mostly in Germany, as an infantryman and military policeman. Finally he was handed a general discharge in December 1948 that cited Ray's "ineptness and lack of adaptability to military service."

He lost a factory job in Chicago, had a car repossessed in St. Louis and used up a bank account in Alton before heading for Los Angeles in the fall of 1949. It was there that he began to commit an almost clownish series of crimes, angry and desperate. As a hapless and headstrong victim of a depression that seemed to be lifting everywhere but where he was, James Earl Ray would have been as effective if he had settled for kicking tires. As it was, he chose to hold up grocery stores.

Ray first tried to steal a typewriter from a cafeteria office in L.A., but was discovered by an assistant manager. He got away but only after dropping his Army discharge papers and a bank savings book. Even so, he stayed around the neighborhood until a parking lot attendant recognized him and called the cops. With no record, only 21 and an Army veteran, Ray was given a 90-day term.

"Every time he came back here, he got into trouble," says his uncle, Bill Maher, in Alton. And the Alton police chief, William Peterson, remembers the passing through of James Earl Ray with a special loathing: "He was a dirty neck, the kind of criminal who gets into all kinds of trouble, hates and has no respect for the law." But if Ray blundered, got caught and returned only to lose another day, he did so with persistence.

On May 6, 1952 he tried robbing a cab driver in Chicago of $11 but was again discovered, chased by policemen down a one-way alley; when he refused to surrender, one of the patrolmen fired a shot, hitting him in both arms. Ray fell through a basement window, cutting his face open. He was found guilty and sentenced to two years in the state prison. On March 12, 1954 he was released.

Attempting to break into a dry cleaner's in East Alton, Ill. on Aug. 28, 1954, he lost his loafers as he kicked out the front windows. The police began arriving and Ray turned, in stocking feet, to run across the broken glass, through thickets and over the railroad tracks. The police stopped to dismantle the distributor on the engine of his parked car. Ray circled back and tried to start the motor, but he took off again as the police converged. He tried again and then a third time to return to the car, both times failing to start it; finally, with his feet slashed and bleeding, he ran some five miles to a relative's house.

A spell of high living with a roll of 20s

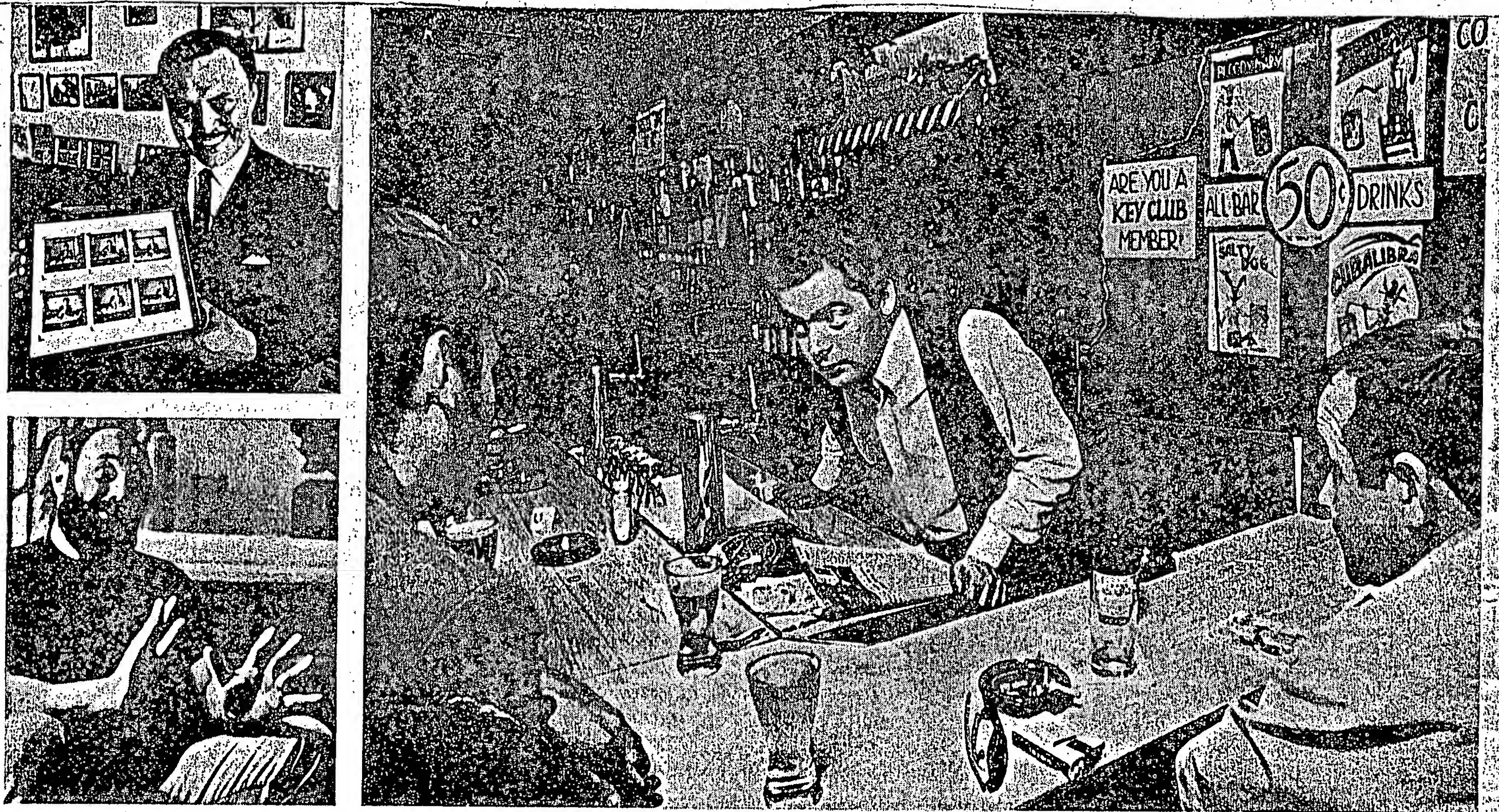
cross which she has painted red, white and blue and lettered "rugged cross." She once walked it down Maine Street in Quincy. "I made it," she says, "to keep my sanity. After what happened to Kennedy and the war and all . . . I had to turn to Jesus."

Susan Jane, who will be 21 this week, never bothered to see Melba, although she lived only a few miles away from the Virginia Hotel until 1965. She was a hospital cafeteria worker, secretary and go-go dancer until marrying an ex-bandleader who now manages a hamburger drive-in in North Chicago. Susan failed even to recognize Jimmy's picture in the newspapers.

John, the next eldest after Jimmy Ray, has also served prison time, for burglary. So far, he hasn't been heard from. Carol is now a St. Louis housewife who called a relative to say she was horrified and too ashamed to think of even leaving her home. Max, 17 years old, is living with foster

his getaway car so Ray ran five miles home in badly cut stocking feet—only to be arrested anyway. East Alton Police Chief Harold Riggins (top left, standing in front of cell Ray occupied) recalls Ray's habit of flinching when he told a lie "as though he'd been slapped around a lot and was afraid of being hit." Captain Ebert Grimes (left) remembers him as "a man who had no use for anything."

In 1959 Ray and a partner held up Mrs. Mary Wegener (above) in her Alton grocery. "I can still feel his gun in my back," she says. "He was a vicious guy." The partner was caught but Ray got away.



Those in Los Angeles who got to know James Ray as Eric Galt last winter remember him as a loner with plenty of cash. Songwriter Charles Stein (bottom left) describes how "he kept pulling out those fresh 20s and never counted his change." Tomas Reyes Lau (upper left), to whom Ray paid $245 for a four-week bartending course, found him an apt pupil: "Self-confident with good hand coordination." By contrast Kathy Norton (right), one of his dancing instructors, remembers him as "clumsy" and socially inept. Bo Del Monte (above), bartender at the Rabbit's Foot Club where Ray often spent his evenings drinking 50-cent screwdrivers, calls him "a meek kind of man"—except for the night he got into an argument with a woman about the race problem and loudly denounced all Negroes.

In March 1955, Ray was arrested with a partner for passing forged money orders and sentenced to Leavenworth Penitentiary, where he was released two years and nine months later, in early 1958.

It was not until Aug. 7, 1959 that Ray had his first success—an $800 grocery store holdup in St. Louis. He and his partner both escaped. Encouraged, two weeks later they chose a market in Ray's old neighborhood in Alton. It was hardly a smooth operation. The wife of the market owner remembers: "At first, I thought he was fooling around and so I started telling him about God and then he pulled the gun. That was all there was. He chased people all around the store. He just ran around like a wild man." But the pair got $2,200. Their escape, however, was so rushed that Ray forgot to shut his car door and fell out as he swerved the car sharply around a corner. The car crashed and Ray fled, leaving his partner behind.

In October, Ray returned to St. Louis with a new accomplice to hold up a second market there. But this time, they got only $190 from a cashier and then were followed by a customer who gave police a running account as they switched cars. Their new car was later seen parked in front of Ray's rooming house. As the police entered the building, they spotted Ray and ordered him to halt. He turned and ran to his room; one of the cops followed and hit him over the head with his revolver. Another boarder happened by and, taking advantage of the distraction, Ray stood up and began to run. A patrolman fired a single shot and Ray surrendered. It took a jury only 20 minutes to sentence him to 20 years in the Missouri State Penitentiary. That was the last time James Earl Ray stood trial.

Ray, however, was not quite spent. After the verdict, Earl A. Riley, a deputy sheriff, remembers that he "had taken the handcuffs off one of his wrists when Ray suddenly grabbed my arm and swung me around against the cell bars. While I was on the floor, he tried to kick me in the head, then he

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Warden Harold Swenson (above) of the Missouri penitentiary from which Ray escaped a year ago rates him as "strictly a small-timer." But Ray's brother Jerry, 32 (left), is convinced his brother "had a deal" after he got out and was "onto a lot of money." Jerry, himself an ex-con, was also a prime FBI suspect in the King case until he established that he was at work in Wheeling, Ill. when the murder

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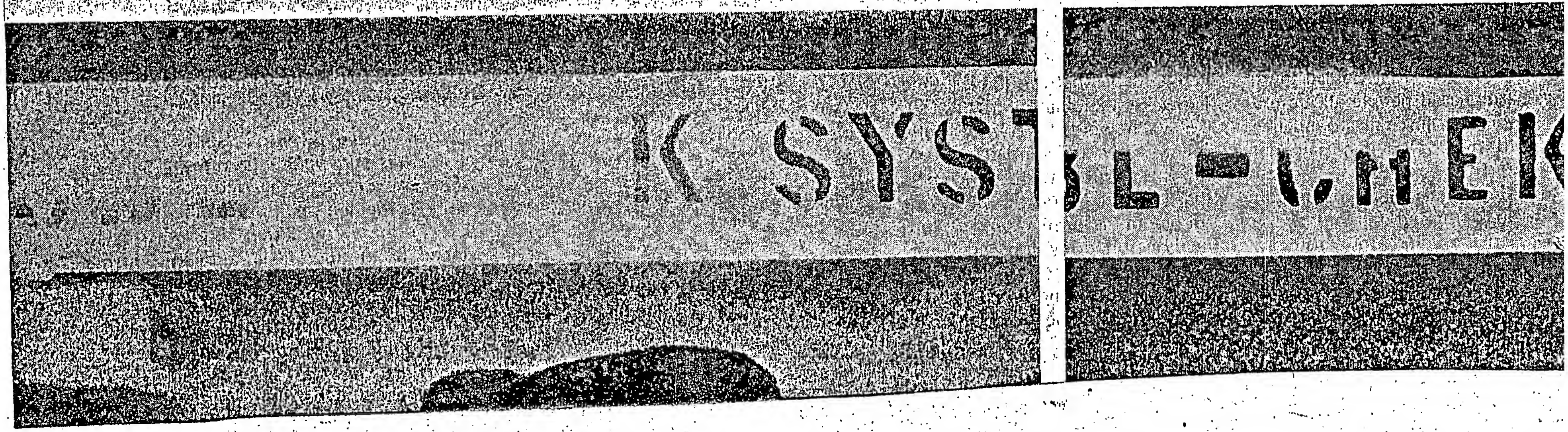
broke loose and ran to an elevator," where he was caught.

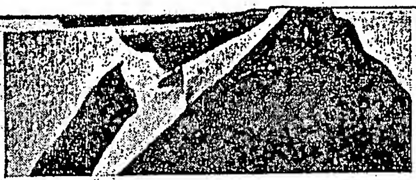
For the next seven years in prison, Ray distinguished himself only by a series of solitary escape attempts which earned him the nickname "The Mole." For this quiet, angry figure the ventures were perhaps a source of amusement, perhaps a way to do precisely what the skinny schoolboy in Ewing, Mo. had always wanted to have happen—to rebel, be recaptured and revolt again. "Hey, kids, it's THE MOLE!" Once he tried to scale a wall and was knocked unconscious when his makeshift ladder collapsed; another time, in 1966, he hid for two days in a ventilator shaft, then crawled to a rooftop only to have a guard spot his hands coming up over the top. He was trying to escape with $4.15, razor blades, a broken mirror and a bag of assorted pills. Then, exactly a year ago, he finally did it.

In the curiously lit world that includes a sleek, bleached strip of North Hollywood, Eric Starvo Galt might have seemed 34 or even 28 years old, depending on the shade, the time of day or how close he was sitting to the bar lamp at the Rabbit's Foot Club. Galt, who was 40, looked like a man learning to

From a grocery store bandit caught by a hidden

In the act of holding up a St. Louis grocery in 1959, Ray and accomplice Joseph Austin were photographed by a fixed-focus camera normally used to identify check cashers. Austin unknowingly stood in front of the camera (left) before he and Ray rifled the cash register of $1,200. Then he fol-





was committed. The Rays' uncle, William Maher (below), an Alton painting contractor, remembers James as "the kind of guy who only turned up when he wanted something—like bail money."

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swing; last November, he went on a marijuana-buying junket to Mexico. "Sharon," one of his ballroom dance instructors, had suggested to the girls at the National Dance Studios in Long Beach that her pupil had developed a crush; he trembled, she said, when he stood too close. But Galt fled in his white Mustang after only an hour on Go-Go Night, and for $245, paid in advance, enrolled in bartending school instead.

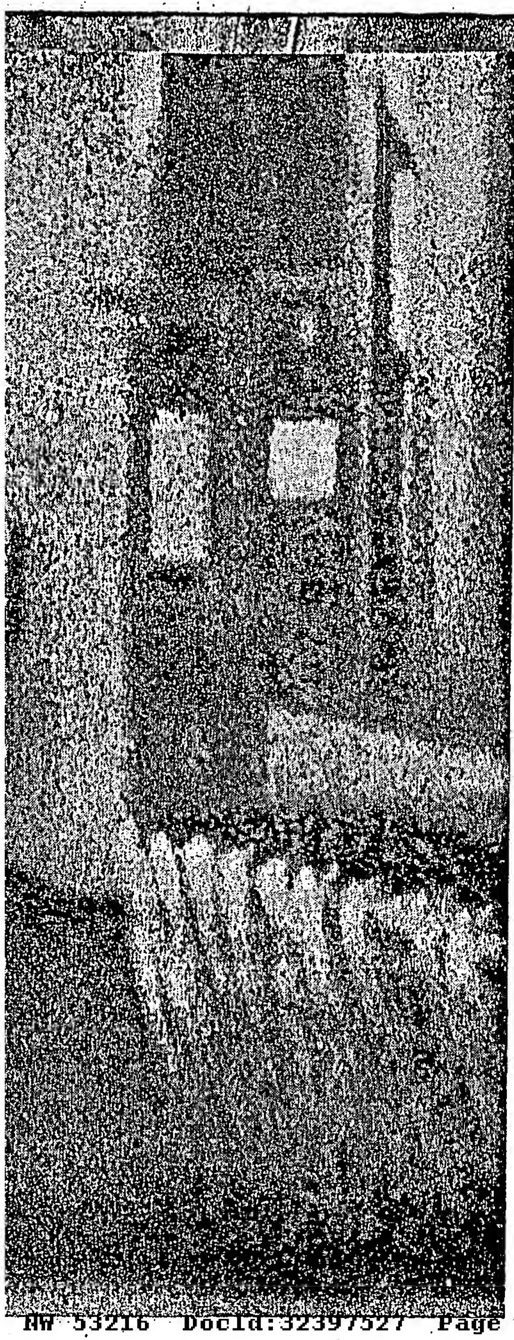
James Earl Ray had never had his picture among the "big dealers" in the warden's album in the Missouri State Penitentiary. In Prison, like any kid from Alton or Quincy or Ewing or Shelbina, Mo., he had never mixed with the big boys from Kansas City and St. Louis. "He's innocuous," said the warden. "He's penny ante."

That is, James Earl Ray, slight and round-shouldered, who flinched, smiled a crooked, private grin and sometimes even seemed to walk on a slant, was once penny ante. But, says the FBI, on April 4 in Memphis, at the moment Martin Luther King died, all the bills for the Mustang, the shoes, the dancing lessons and a $150 30.06 Remington—and maybe the bitter childhood—came due.

camera to the most hunted man in the country

lowed Ray out (center) as both stuffed their pockets. At right, a policeman holds their hats, lost in the escape. Arrested two months later for another robbery, Ray was convicted and sentenced to 20 years in the Missouri penitentiary. He was serving this term when he escaped last year and vanished.

12



FIELDING
GUERARD
HOPKINS
VOTE
DEMOCRATS

BILL MUNTON

RIVERS & FAMILY
Calhounian counterpart.

the war and on integration—although, as the son of an impoverished turpentine distiller from Gumville, he has voted frequently for Lyndon Johnson's Great Society programs. His constituents were not unsympathetic 18 months ago when he proposed that the U.S. "flatten Hanoi and let world opinion go fly a kite." In 1948 he cried that Harry Truman's anti-lynching bill would "lynch the Constitution," and as late as 1956 was defining N.A.A.C.P as "the National Association for the Advancement of Communist Propaganda."

Hero's Style. Only once in the past have the First District's Negroes—43% of the population—challenged the chairman. Rivers trounced their 1950 candidate, a Negro attorney, in that year's Democratic primary. This year, in the aftermath of Martin Luther King's assassination, another Negro attorney, George Payton Jr., 39, decided to try. Scraping together the $2,000 registration fee with loans from relatives, Payton attacked Rivers as a "warmonger and superhawk," stumped for a $2 minimum wage, expanded social security, and liberal federal housing programs.

Almost inexplicably, Rivers, who wears his silver mane in the style of his South Carolinian hero John C. Calhoun, ran scared, plastering Charleston with billboards and TV spots. Ten days before the primary, Rivers arranged to have 15 members of his committee flock to Charleston along with Admiral Hyman Rickover to inspect a Polaris missile facility and laud Mendel.

The militant campaign was hardly necessary. Last week Rivers' Democrats, along with several thousand Republicans who crossed party lines, gave the chairman 65,842 votes against 18,883 for Payton. The G.O.P. will not even bother to oppose Rivers in November.

Unclassified

RAY'S ODD ODYSSEY

As a thief, James Earl Ray's specialty was botching his getaway. After heisting $190 from a St. Louis supermarket in 1959, Ray left tracks that the most flat-footed cop could follow: he even parked a car used in the stick-up outside his lodgings. That was characteristic of Ray, whose most profitable known caper, grossing only $2,200, was bungled when the escape car crashed. The cruelest of his convictions was for the $11 stick-up of a Chicago cab driver in 1952.

After he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary in 1967, Ray's style changed; he seemed to have become a *cum-laude* graduate in criminality. Flush with unaccustomed cash and astute at espying loopholes in the law's vigilance, he rambled across the country using a collection of aliases. Then, after a .30-'06 bullet killed Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis on April 4, spurious radio messages sent Memphis police chasing the wrong way after Ray's 1966 white Mustang.

From that day, until a British detective politely questioned a Brussels-bound passenger at London's Heathrow Airport on June 8, Ray eluded a worldwide professional manhunt fortified by a $100,000 reward for his capture. Last week, with the accused assassin immured in a maximum-security cell in Southwest London's Wandsworth prison, policemen unraveled the nexus of plastic faces, borrowed identities and bogus papers that he had woven for two months across two continents.

Canadian Pattern. Four days after King's murder, Ray had hightailed across the Canadian border, and was renting a $10-a-week room from Mrs. Fela Szpakowsky on Toronto's polyglot Ossington Avenue. Just why Ray chose Canada is not entirely clear, but, almost surely, one reason was the knowledge—widely circulated among convicts in the U.S.—that it is ridiculously easy to get a Canadian passport. All that is needed is the gall to ask for one and a birth certificate—and the certificate is not strictly necessary.

In a consistent if bizarre pattern over several months Ray had appropriated four aliases from Torontonians, all from men who live around the suburb of Scarborough and bear varying degrees of likeness to Ray. In July 1967, Ray took the name of Warehouse Supervisor Eric St. Vincent Galt, 54, whose signature

Eric [illegible] Galt

he had apparently misread as Eric Starvo Galt. As does Ray, Galt has scars on his forehead and right palm and could pass for 40, Ray's age. John Willard, 42, the name used by the man who rented the room in Memphis 13 paces away from the bathroom where King's assassin hid, is an insurance adjuster who is shorter and slighter than Ray's 5-ft. 9-in., 175-lb. frame, but looks not unlike him. Paul Bridgman, an educator, and Ramon George Sneyd, a policeman, whose names Ray used after he arrived in Toronto, are both 35 and have Ray's build. Police are still puzzling over how they were chosen.

In the Library. On April 16, Ray paid $8 for a Canadian passport in the name of Sneyd. "He blended into the wallpaper," recalls Lillian Spencer, manager of the Kennedy Travel Bureau, who handled the simple declaration that Ray signed, affirming that he was a Canadian citizen. Next day, on Miss Spencer's say-so, Travel Agent Henry Moos notarized the form and forwarded it to Ottawa.

Ray was also aware of Ontario's lackadaisical procedure for issuance of birth certificates and mailed off $2 money orders for certificates for both Bridgman and Sneyd. For these, he needed the maiden names of their mothers. Announcements of their births in library copies of old newspapers supplied the information Ray required.

Ray never collected the birth certificate mailed back for Bridgman—who, as Ray apparently learned, already had a valid passport. On April 18, the fugitive got a phone call and next day moved three blocks away to a Chinese-run boardinghouse on Dundas Street West, where he had rented a room in advance for $9 a week from Mrs. Yee Sun Loo. On May 2, Ray picked up his new passport and paid $345 in cash for a return excursion flight to London. Four days later, he left Canada.

"Nice Guy." On May 8, Ray flew from London to Lisbon, perhaps in the hope of a payoff, perhaps in an attempt to contact recruiters for white mercenary fighters in Africa, or else to

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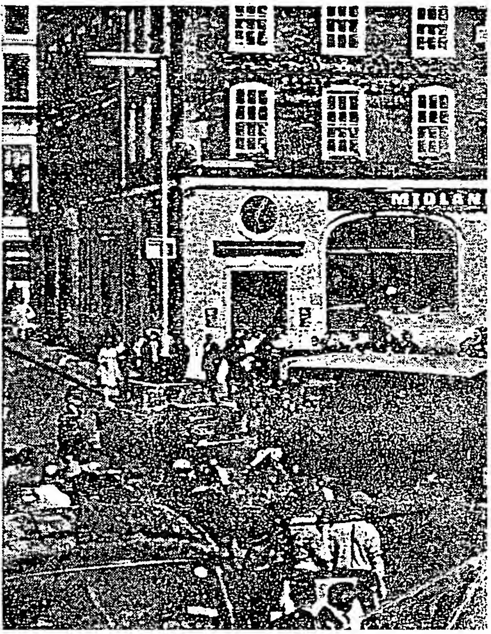
POLICE VAN CARRYING



try to reach the white-supremacist breakaway state of Rhodesia, which maintains a mission in the Portuguese capital. Indulgent officials, spotting a discrepancy between the spelling of his name "Sneya" on his passport and his adopted signature, nevertheless allowed him to pass "like any tourist."

Husbanding his funds, Ray checked into the third-rate Hotel Portugal, hung out at cheap bars, and even wheedled a $7.02 discount on a prostitute's routine $17.55 fee for half an hour's dalliance. "He was a nice guy," declared Maria, a comely adjunct to the Texas Bar. Ray-Sneyd also obtained a new passport from the Canadian embassy by pointing out that his surname was misspelled on his original document.

On May 17, Ray flew back to London, finding anonymity in one of the city's 5,500 hotels and back-street rooming houses. His tracks become visible again on May 28, when he checked into the $5-a-night New Earl's Court Hotel. On June 5, after telephoning the London Daily Telegraph to inquire about mercenary forces in Africa, Ray was again on the move, holing up in the unlisted Pax Hotel, run by Swedish-born Mrs. Anna Thomas, 54. For the next three days, Ray never left his room for more than 20 minutes, and refused to emerge for four telephone calls, two of them from an airline. On June 6, Ray again telephoned the Telegraph's Ian Colvin, asking about mercenaries. Colvin offered to send him an address in Brussels.

The search that caught up with Ray started when the FBI—taking into account the easy passport procedure in Canada—asked the Canadian police to go through their passport applications. They combed 300,000 of them and tipped off Scotland Yard to Sneyd's true identity. Held on charges of possessing false passports and a loaded .38 revolver, Ray's first appearance in London's famed Bow Street Magistrate's Court lasted 82 seconds before he was hustled back to a cell. Meanwhile, U.S. Assistant Attorney General Fred Vinson Jr. began the slow, tortuous procedure of extraditing Ray to face a possible death sentence for murder or finish the last 13 years of his 20-year Missouri sentence for robbery. Fighting all the way, Ray's lawyers could delay his return to the U.S. for months.

AP

UPI

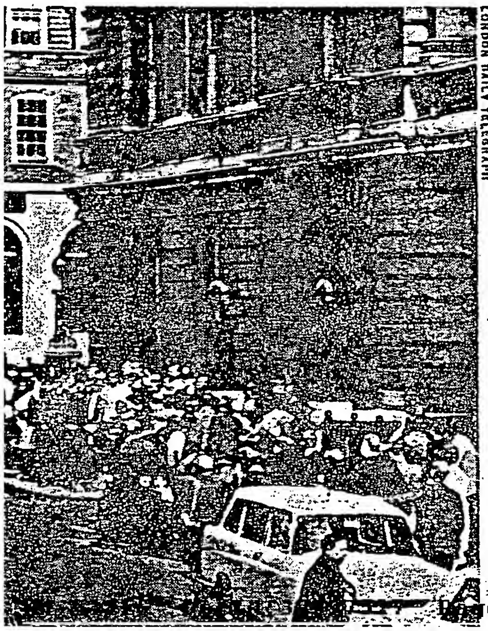
SNEYD

BRIDGMAN

GALT

A way to blend into the wallpaper.

AY FROM BOW STREET



LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH

Help & Conspiracy. Ray's elusive odyssey could not fail to suggest that he had had help. Where did the money come from (at times he flashed a roll of $20 bills)? This, of course, galvanized the artisans of conspiracy theories.

To Crime Buff Truman Capote (*In Cold Blood*), it seemed conceivable that Ray, as well as Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas and Sirhan Sirhan in Los Angeles, might all be cogs in a single, stupendous murder machine. The killers, Capote suggested on NBC's *Tonight* show, might all have been intensively trained, brainwashed triggermen of a type envisaged by Novelist Richard Condon in *The Manchurian Candidate;* their purpose could be to drive the U.S. to its knees by assassinating public persons—a theory, Capote claimed, that was once expounded by 19th century Theosophist Helena Blavatsky. (Sirhan, Capote noted, asked for a copy of Madame Blavatsky's *The Secret Doctrine* soon after his arrest.)

More plausibly, Capote argued that a cheap crook with Ray's dismal record of bargain-basement villainy could not have traveled so far without extensive help from experts. In Capote's view, Ray was the low man in an elaborate and many-tiered plot—the pigeon paid to leave his fingerprints on a rifle and then decoy pursuers away from King's real assassin. The plotters allowed Ray to live, Capote hypothesized, because he had no knowledge of the conspiracy's inner core.

Botched Again. Law-enforcement men working on the case tend to discount such theories. A senior Justice Department lawyer is conducting an undercover search for leads to a plot among Memphis underworldlings, but local police and FBI agents—who first hunted the suspect as a member of a conspiracy—are working on the assumption that Ray, a known racist and always a loner in prison, killed alone.

Ironically, after skillfully eluding capture for so many weeks, Ray can be said to have botched his last getaway. He apparently left Lisbon in a hurry because he sensed that the police were on his trail. But under a 60-year-old treaty with the U.S., Portugal—which abolished the death penalty in 1867—will not extradite any criminal sought on a capital charge. Senhor Ray could have stayed there indefinitely.

Building a Biography

The accused assassin of Robert Kennedy sat passively in his 12-ft. by 12-ft. maximum-security cell at Los Angeles County's Central Jail for Men, reading works on theosophy. Meanwhile, bits and pieces of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's personality and past began falling into place. Most of the insights came with last week's release of testimony taken by the grand jury, which had convened the day after Kennedy died.

Vincent T. Di Pierro, college student and part-time waiter at the Ambassador Hotel, recalled seeing Sirhan at the moment of the murder. "The minute the first two shots were fired," testified Di Pierro, "he still had a very sick-looking smile on his face. That's one thing—I can never forget that."

Three others in the serving kitchen where Kennedy was shot also testified to seeing Sirhan, who crouched on a tray rack and asked repeatedly if the Senator would come that way. But it was not the innocuous-looking Jordanian that attracted attention; it was a svelte, mysterious girl in a polka-dot dress, who was seen joking with the accused and who reportedly later rushed past stunned campaign workers shouting, "We shot him!" Though a number of publicity-hungry females turned themselves in to police, a worldwide woman hunt had failed to uncover the real Miss Polka Dot.

Mixed Bag. Another witness claimed that he had seen Sirhan at a suburban gun club twelve hours before the assassination. Contrary to range policy, which calls for a pause between shots, Sirhan snapped off up to 300 rounds in rapid-fire succession with an Iver Johnson .22-cal. revolver, the same type as that used in the killing. The Los Angeles County coroner testified that Senator Kennedy was struck with three bullets, rather than two as originally thought. The third landed in back of the right armpit, near the second. The shots had apparently been fired at point-blank range, at least one of them only two or three inches from the victim.

The week also produced a mixed bag of claims from people who said they had some special knowledge of the sullen defendant. A former Castro commandant, José Duarte of Miami, said he had scuffled with Sirhan a month ago in Los Angeles when he heard Sirhan tell a group of leftists: "What the U.S. needs is another Castro." In London, Journalist Jon Kimche, who is known mainly for his sensational anti-Arab diatribes, wrote in the Evening Standard that Sirhan had returned to the Middle East twice, in 1964 and 1966. The story was flatly denied by the FBI and State Department. In fact, the peripatetic Sirhan to whom Kimche was alluding may be an American citizen named Sirhan Selim Sirhan, ten years older than the accused and no kin, who frequently visits the Middle East.

Every Scintilla. While all this second-guessing was going on, Los Angeles officials were diligently scrutinizing every scintilla of evidence, mindful of the 1963 mess made by their counterparts in Dallas. Twenty-three of L.A.'s top cops have been assigned full time to the case, while a special three-man legal team, whose members have handled 200 homicide cases for the D.A.'s office, will make sure that neither Sirhan's rights nor potential evidence is perjured. Interviewing the defendant are two court-appointed psychiatrists. A trial date will be set at a June 28 hearing, and Sirhan will plead either guilty, no contest, not guilty, or not guilty by reason of insanity.

RACES

Black Separatist

Integration has been the aim of the Congress of Racial Equality since CORE was born in 1942. Its intramural squabbles have never been concerned with the principle of desegration but with its pace. Two years ago, Floyd McKissick replaced Founder James Farmer because he was not moving fast enough. Last week McKissick, in turn, was supplanted by a more aggressive lieutenant. CORE's new chief, however, advocates rigid separation of the races.

Roy Innis, a Harlem-honed black nationalist, will formally replace McKissick next month at CORE's convention in Columbus. Innis, 34, is a bearded manifesto maker who holds that "separation of unlikes is the natural condition of society," and says that blacks generally favor nonviolence, but "not over the achievement of nationalistic objectives." He professes a fear of genocide, not "by the gas chamber but by the slow taking away of our existence" through racial amalgamation. Appealing to Negroes to improve their own lot rather than die in all-out conflict with the white man, Innis adds nonetheless: "We believe that if we must die, it will not be by hara-kiri but by kamikaze—take as many with us as we can."

BOB ADELMAN

CORE'S INNIS
Kamikaze, yes; hara-kiri, no.

By accepting Innis' incendiary view, CORE alienates not only whites but black moderates as well. Thus it joins the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in a militant shift to the left.

TRIALS

Cost of Counseling

Pediatrician Benjamin Spock, who is more concerned these days with pacifists than pacifiers, seemed openly to seek arrest in hopes that he could eventually test his crusade against the Viet Nam war before the Supreme Court. Last week at Boston's Federal District Court, he moved closer to that goal. An all-male jury pronounced Spock, 65, guilty of conspiring to counsel and abet young men in evading the draft. Also found guilty: Yale Chaplain William Sloane Coffin Jr., 44, Harvard Graduate Student Michael Ferber, 23, and Writer Mitchell Goodman, 44. The fifth member of "the Boston Five," Marcus Raskin, 34, a former White House disarmament aide, was acquitted.

The trial, which gained notoriety from Spock's presence, had dragged on for 19 days, and would probably have lasted longer had not 85-year-old Judge Francis J. W. Ford pushed the pace by regularly growling, "That's irrelevant." The plethora of evidence gathered by the prosecution included literature and statements, as well as a film of a draft-card burning attended by some of the defendants. The defense sought to counter the conspiracy charge by claiming that the five were acting as individuals (the jury agreed in Raskin's case), and that their approach was a form of free speech.

Coffin greeted the sentence with a droll "I think they have confused the lightning bugs with the lightning." Of the guilty four, draft-age Ferber stands to lose least from the verdict. While appealing the case, he is a free man; had he been let off, he would have faced immediate induction. Presumably, Ferber would have refused to serve, and thereby become liable for prosecution under the Selective Service Act.

MARYLAND

Death of a Company Town

Tiny Daniels, Md. (pop. 381), is one of the last examples of that almost vanished bit of Americana, the company town, which once ranged from Western mine and lumber settlements to Southern cotton camps. Somehow, Daniels, nestled in a wooded hollow along a back road eleven miles west of Baltimore, has managed to survive. Its company store, company houses, company-dominated churches and company mill—its *raison d'être*—all remained intact in the age of the megalopolis.

Intact, that is, until last month, when the C. R. Daniels textile company, which wholly owns the 128-year-old community, started demolishing it in line with a decision made last year that it was too expensive to maintain. The $15-million-a-year mill operation will be unaffected by the policy, since most of those losing their homes are too set in their ways—or too old—to look for new jobs. A good number of the 94 displaced families, accustomed to living in their own homes at $16-a-month rent, may be forced to move into Baltimore public-housing projects.

Although probably justifiable on economic grounds, the death of Daniels creates a sad and unusual social problem that has prompted several groups to try, unsuccessfully, to save it. Some large families and retired couples will undoubtedly wind up on food stamps and welfare. Oliver Overington, 74, retired from the mill in 1960 and lives with his wife on a company pension of $6.25 a month and $1,800 a year in social security. Though their Daniels house had minimal facilities (no hot running water), the Overingtons had taken pains with the painting and papering and were convinced that they would live there the rest of their lives. Last week they moved to a $75-a-month apartment which they can ill-afford.

At the other end of town lives Richard Landacre, 62, with his wife and grandchild. He makes $1.60 an hour at the mill, spends much of his leisure time working in his large vegetable garden. "We're both sickly," says Mrs. Landacre. "He takes nine kinds of medicine and me five." Where will they go? "I guess we'll just find a room," she says resignedly, "and sit there."

THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1968

Galt Trip From Coast to New Or

By MARTIN WALDRON
Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, April 25—James Earl Ray, accused by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of conspiracy in the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was reported to have driven last December from Los Angeles to New Orleans to talk business with "a man with an Italian name."

Charles Stein a bearded song writer, said that he had made the trip with Eric Starvo Galt, said by the F.B.I. to be an alias of Ray's. Mr. Stein said in an interview that Galt had told him the man's name, "but I don't remember right now what it was."

"But it was a man with an Italian name and he either lived on the industrial canal in New Orieans or he had a business there," Mr. Stein said.

There are scores of businesses but no residences on the New Orleans industrial canal, which is part of the Mississippi River port facilities.

Compalint Filed

Dr. King was fatally wounded by a rifle bullet in Memphis April 4. A complaint filed by Joseph H. Gamble, F.B.I. agent in Birmingham, said that Galt, with an "alleged brother," had conspired to violate Dr. King's civil rights.

A week ago, in discussing the trip he had taken with Galt Mr. Stein said that Galt had driven to New Orleans as a favor to Mrs. Rosas to pick up two of the widow's daughters, who were staying in New Orleans with relatives.

Mr. Stein said that Galt had agreed to make the trip if mr. Stein and his sister would sign a petition seeking to get the name of former Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama on the California ballot as a Presitil candidate.

Mrs. Rosas said that she and her brother had signed the Wallace petitions because they were both from the Deep South, not because they had wanted a favor from Galt.

Mrs. Rosas said that Galt had been discussing his proposed trip to New Orleans in a Hollywood bar where she worked. She said she had told him about her two daughters in New Orleans and that he had invited her to go with him and bring them back.

On Dec. 15, when the trip was to begin, Galt came by her house to pick her up, she said, but she said that she had not intended to go and asked

Galt drove straight through to New Orleans without stopping for the night. Galt, he said, drank many cans of beer on the way.

"We would stop and get a six-pack and he would drink it while he was driving," Mr. Stein said.

Mr. Stein said that Galt reported having talked to the ma he had driven almost 2,000 miles to see. Mr. Stein added that Galt seemed to be "pleased."

"He wanted to leave and drive right back to Los Angeles Mr. Stein said.

Mr. Stein, who once lived in New Orleans, said that he had prevailed on Galt to stay over for a couple of days while he visited relatives.

Records at the Provincial Motel in New Orleans showed that Galt stayed three days, Dec. 17 through Dec. 19, in a $12-a-day room.

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New York Time
26 Apr 68

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Date 19 AUG 1976

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From Coast to New Orleans Recalled by Companion

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Mr. Stein said that he and his widowed sister, Mrs. Rita Rosas, 30 years old, with whom he lives in Hollywood, have been questioned numerous time by F.B.I. agents about the trip.

"They are now saying I am the key to this thing, who may have paid for it," Mr. Stein said.

He would not elaborate.

Mrs. Rosas said last night that she was interviewed several hours yesterday by agents.

"They asked me all kind of things, like did I think Eric Galt was capable of murder," she said. "Everybody is capable of murder, but I don't believe the Eric Galt I knew shot Dr. King."

Mr. Stein said that he had spent $35 for gasoline and food but that Galt had not seemed worried about money.

In New Orleans, Mr. Stein took Galt to meet Mr. Stein's sister, Mrs. Marie Lee. Mrs. Lee said today that the pictures released by the F.B.I. of Ray, an escaped convict from Missouri did not appear to be those of Galt.

The bureau has said that it found that Galt and Ray were the same person through fingerprints.

Mr. Stein, 38, said that he could not disclose all the details of his conversation with Galt during the trip to New Orleans. He said that he had an offer from a magazine for exclusive rights to his story.

Mr. Stein said that Galt had stopped several times in Texas on the way to New Orleans to make long-distance telephone calls.

International Hunt Opens

HONG KONG, April 25 (UPI)—The F.B.I. has begun an international search for information on the whereabouts of James Earl Ray. The United States Consulate General issued a statement today saying that the bureau has asked assistance in "giving the fullest possible publicity" to information about the suspect.

A consulate spokesman said similar requests had been made through United States diplomatic missions in a number of countries.

New York Times
26 Apr 68

WA 30 DEC 69

RAY-201

United Press International

James Earl Ray, handcuffed and closely guarded, enters federal court for hearing.

Ray Complains

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—James Earl Ray complained that isolation was wrecking his mental health and asked U.S. District Judge William E. Miller to move him out of his cell in the Tennessee State Prison's maximum security division.

A prison psychiatrist warned that permitting Ray to mingle with other prisoners would jeopardize his life. He said some of the inmates "are willing to take their chances of going down in history books as the person who killed Dr. Martin Luther King's assassin."

Ray said he didn't care. "I would rather face that than 99 years in isolation," he said.

Ray contends that his confinement in a 6-foot-by-9-foot cell violated the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment.

WASH Post
30 Dec. 1969

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date

Court Tells Ray's Jailers Not to Enforce Idleness

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A federal judge has ordered state prison officials to find something to occupy James Earl Ray's time while serving a 99-year sentence for slaying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

After a hearing yesterday on Ray's petition for release from maximum security confinement, U.S. Dist. Court Judge William E. Miller told prison officials to come up with a plan incorporating "recreation, work and exercise" for the prisoner by Jan. 12.

Ray, who pleaded guilty last March 10 to the sniper slaying of King, testified he would rather face the possibility of being killed by another convict than to spend "99 years in solitary."

Viewed as Inhuman

He contended that the conditions of maximum security confinement amounted to cruel and inhuman treatment in violation of his constitutional rights.

The state opposed Ray's bid for permission to mingle with other prisoners, contending his life might be endangered and his chances for escaping would be greater.

Ray spent almost two hours on the witness stand, describing life in his 6x9-foot cell at the penitentiary here.

Judge Miller asked Ray what kind of work he would like to perform.

"I wouldn't mind doing dishes, digging ditches, anything," Ray replied, adding that he preferred "to be outside as much as I can."

Silent on Specific Job

Ray did not specify any particular job, however, saying "It is bad to ask for anything in a penitentiary, that way you'll never get it."

W. S. Neil, the penitentiary warden, suggested that Ray might help guards serve food to other convicts in maximum security and lend a hand with janitorial duties within the maximum security building.

Judging by Ray's expression, he was less than satisfied with the proposal.

"Enforced idleness can be cruel punishment," Miller said, "particularly when it is only to protect him from bodily harm." He said he would reserve final judgment until he reviewed the prison officials' plan.

30 Dec '69
Wash Star

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date [illegible]

WS APR 28 1968

FBI Checks Canadian Lead In Search for King's Killer

By **JEREMIAH O'LEARY**
Star Staff Writer

The search for the suspected killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. now has branched into Canada.

This development came after the Federal Bureau of Investigation received information that James Earl Ray, sought as King's assassin visited Montreal last July and August during the Expo 67 fair. The FBI declined comment and provided no details as to whom the 40-year-old suspect might have seen in Canada or the purpose of his visit.

Ray escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Mo., in April 1967 and bought a 1966 white Mustang in Birmingham, Ala., in August. No information is available on his means of transportation between those dates.

Mexico and West Germany also are considered possible hiding places. Ray is known to have visited Mexico after purchasing the Mustang picked up by the FBI in Atlanta the day after the April 4 slaying in Memphis. Ray had a long tour of duty in West Germany when he was in the U. S. Army from 1946 to 1948.

More than three weeks after the assassination officials are indicating that the trail is cold. Investigators have been banking heavily on the fact that more than $150,000 in rewards has been offered for information leading to arrest of the fugitive. They also are working long hours to check out the hundreds of tips that have poured in from people who think they have seen the suspect.

The FBI has done a vacuum-sweeper job of collecting information about Ray, his habits, usual haunts and acquaintances. They are now in the position of knowing nearly everything about Ray except his whereabouts and whether he was working alone or as trigger-man for a conspiracy.

Some officials are leaning more and more to the theory that Ray was paid to shoot King—not on the basis of solid information, but because it has been impossible to account for the amount of money he spent from the time of his escape from the Missouri prison on April 23, 1967, until last April 4.

WP APR 27 1968

THE WASHINGTON POST Saturday, April 27, 1968 A3

FBI Discounts Conflicting Reports on King Suspect

By Gaylord Shaw
Associated Press

FBI officials are quietly trying to play down contradictory descriptions of the appearance and habits of James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, the elusive escaped convict charged with the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The discrepancies have fueled speculation that perhaps Ray and Galt actually are two persons, or that two or more persons used the name Galt.

No official statement has been issued to rebut this theory. But FBI sources insisted that Ray and Galt are the same person.

"We know there's only one person involved here," said one official.

"We've got his fingerprints and we know who he is."

Although the FBI now insists the man it seeks is Ray, it has not amended a conspiracy complaint against Galt—charging that Galt had conspired with "an individual he alleged to be his brother" to violate Dr. King's civil rights—to change the name to Ray.

In enlisting the public's help in the manhunt, the FBI has distributed thousands of flyers. The first set bears Galt's name, the second Ray's.

Puzzling aspects of the case continue to pop up.

Atlanta residents said cigarette or cigar ashes were scattered on the carpeted floor of a white 1966 Mustang that FBI agents impounded there a week after Dr. King was slain. They also said a cigar butt fell out of the car when agents opened the door. The FBI has said the car was owned b Galt. But a number of people wh knew Galt say he does not smoke.

Reporters showed copies of the FB released picture of Galt to the Bi mingham witnesses, and to residen of the Memphis rooming house fro which the fatal shot was fired. Almos all said the photo didn't resemble th man they saw.

Varying ages have been given f the hunted man, from 25 on up. Th FBI said Galt gave his age as 36. said Ray is 40.

Estimates of the fugitive's heig have ranged from 5-feet-8 to 6-fee his weight from 160 to 175 pounds. H eyes have been described as eithe blue or hazel, his hair as either brow or sandy.

An FBI official brushed off th varying descriptions, saying "you run into this every time — it's human nature."

"Anyway, this guy is a professional con. He can change his hair line in three minutes with a razor, and he can gain or lose 20 pounds when he wants to."

There are conflicts, too, in descriptions of Galt's habits, including:

Appearance: The FBI reported Galt "is said to be a neat dresser," while others who knew Ray said he was careless in his dress.

Speech: The Memphis rooming house manager said the man to whom she rented a room three hours before Dr. King was slain had a Southern drawl. An inmate who knew Ray in the Missouri penitentiary said Ray, a native of Illinois, had no Southern accent.

Money: Galt appeared to spend money freely, and paid $2000 cash for the white Mustang. Ray, said the inmate, "was tight as a tick . . . if you owed him money, even a few cents, he would bug you to death."

Music-dancing: The FBI said Galt "is a fan of western and country music" and "is said to be an avid dancer." The inmate said Ray "never expressed any liking" for music or dancing.

The FBI said Galt took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965. But after reporters pointed out Ray was in prison these two years, FBI officials said the statement should have read "reportedly" took dancing lessons.

Galt graduated from a Los Angeles bartending school last March, the FBI said. Reporters determined that at this same time a duplicate driver's license was mailed to Galt at the Birmingham rooming house.

Dr. Donald B. Peterson, superintendent of a Missouri state hospital where Ray was examined for six weeks in 1966, said "We didn't find anything to indicate he was a killer or had tendencies to kill."

The penitentiary warden, Harold Swenson, said he remembered Ray. "It's odd, but I won't believe he did it (killed Dr. King) until it is proven."

But in Dalton, Ga., a former cellmate quoted Ray as once saying he would be willing to kill Dr. King for a $1 million bounty.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG [illegible]

WS APR 26 1968

Tourist Quizzed In King Slaying Receives Apology

HERMOSILLO, Mexico (UPI) —A bearded American tourist from Baltimore, arrested and questioned by Mexican police in their hunt for a suspect in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has been released with apologies by state authorities.

Daniel D. Kennedy, 42, had been arrested Wednesday in a small cafe in Caborca, 80 miles southwest of Nogales, Ariz., and questioned for 12 hours before being brought in handcuffs to this Sonora State capital.

Police turned him loose less than two hours after his arrival yesterday in Hermosillo. Kennedy left police headquarters saying he wanted to continue his trip to Guaymas, a small fishing and resort town on the Pacific coast about 80 miles south of Hermosillo.

American Vice Consul Arnold Denys in Hermosillo said Kennedy has been "completely eliminated" as a suspect through a thorough check by Hermosillo "judicial police" of his background, circumstances, facial features and fingerprints."

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Date 1 9 AUG 1976

8 MAY 1968

CARL T. ROWAN

King Murder Hatched Abroad?

The entire U.S. intelligence apparatus, including the military and the Central Intelligence Agency, has now become involved in the investigation of the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Evidence gathered by FBI agents in one of the most massive probes in the nation's history has forced serious investigation of these possibilities:

1. That James Earl Ray, the alleged assassin, was the hired killer in a Cuba-Red China plot.
2. That the "assassin squad" of the Soviet secret police was somehow involved in the plot.
3. That Ray was hired indirectly by certain black nationalists who paid him with money made available by foreign sources.

The FBI has had as many as 2,000 agents working at one time, in cooperation with hundreds of local policemen and other U.S. intelligence agents, to track down every lead—including the above possibilities that the assassination was plotted with the intention of creating internal chaos in the United States.

It should be emphasized that the dominant theory—and hope—among those directing the investigation is still that the killer was a loner who murdered King out of his own crazy, racist views.

But this theory loses supporters as each day goes by without agents turning up any trace of Ray, who is linked to the murder and murder weapon by fingerprints and ballistics data.

FBI agents believe no longer could get food and drink for so long a period in this country without being detected in the massive day-and-night search that is under way.

This point, added to the now known fact that Ray had plenty of money, has given credibility to the theory that King's assassin was a hired killer.

A growing fear in FBI circles is that the killer was given $10,000 in advance to murder King with a promise of much more upon completion of the job. When he returned to his U.S. racist employers for the final payoff, the theory goes, he was slain and his body dumped where agents may never find it.

International intelligence agents have entered the investigation, however, because of Ray's mysterious trips to New Orleans—and certain of the suspect's trips out of the country. The FBI reportedly has pinpointed Ray's movements even to knowing which prostitute he spent which night with in certain countries, but it has not yet produced meaningful evidence of an international plot.

But there is deep suspicion of a Cuba-Red China plot. The assumption is that, if the Cubans had made arrangements to spirit their hired killer out of the United States, they very likely killed him and dumped him in the ocean.

Totally informed sources here say, however, that there is no evidence whatsoever of involvement by the communist party of the United States, or of any splinter group of U.S. Communists.

One source called the King killing "one of the most baffling cases in memory."

He also theorized that the slaying and escape were so smoothly organized that they tend to discredit suspicions of black Nationalist involvement — but that "every possibility must be checked."

The FBI is pouring vast amounts of manpower and money into the search because it knows its reputation is at stake. It also knows that if King's killer is not found all sorts of rumors will arise.

Some of those directing the investigation are openly hoping that it will turn out to be the work of one man. They fear the explosive repercussions if it turns out that the murderer was a hired killer for white U.S. racists—or for a foreign power.

(C) 1968

3.

Ray

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Date 10 AUG

Vietnam orphans grateful

see page 3

Weekend edition 10¢

WASHINGTON D.C.
EXAMINER

Vol. 1, No. 34 April 26-27, 1968

Galt killed?

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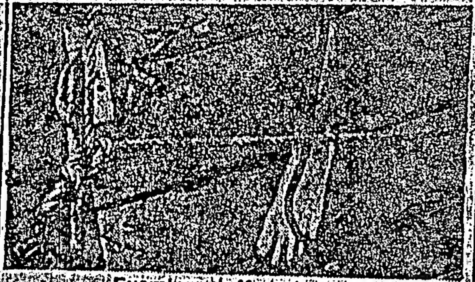
Date 19 AUG 1976



Examiner staff photo by Tony Evans

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Birmingham told the Examiner today.

Galt, charged with a conspiracy to violate the civil rights of Dr. Martin Luther King, may have been killed by those who hired him for the King assassination, the sources said.

The Examiner learned that the FBI in Birmingham was told the assassination conspiracy involved at least four persons from New Orleans and Memphis.

The sources told the FBI that Galt was killed before he was paid the $5,000 promised for the shooting of Dr. King.

FBI officials in Washington refused to comment, other than to say it still has no information as to Galt's whereabouts. The Examiner has learned that more manpower is being turned loose on the Galt manhunt since a national release of photographs has failed to locate him.

The Birmingham sources have named names for the FBI, but the bureau is having a difficult time tying those named directly to the King murder. However, the sources did not tell FBI agents who informed them of Galt's death.

sources with conspiracy in connection with the King crime, or to write him off as a reward-seeker.

In its latest bulletins, the FBI has made no mention of James Earl Ray, a 40-year-old escapee from a Missouri prison. The bureau has identified Ray as Galt's real identity, and still maintains it has no doubts that the two persons are the same.

* * *

Fake police radio reports immediately after the King shooting have apparently convinced the FBI that a conspiracy was behind the murder. The radio reported a chase through one portion of Memphis, while the killer was escaping in the other direction.

Other steps pointing to a conspiracy include Galt's total disappearance after the crime, the confusion as to his description, and the fact that the killer knew where King was staying and was able to plot the crime so quickly. King usually stayed at another Memphis motel.

with Willard. Persons who he knew in Los Angeles this winter say he was a racist, and have connected him with a Wallace campaign headquarters in Hollywood.

The FBI is also still attempting to tie up the loose ends of the Galt-Ray discrepancies. Slight descriptive differences, the classification of Ray as a non-drinker and Galt as fancying beer and vodka, and the statement that Galt was taking dancing lessons while Ray was supposedly in prison have been described as minor differences overlooked in the haste of getting a press release ready on Galt's description.

Ray is 40, stands 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighs about 175 pounds, has blue eyes and brown hair. There is a small scar in the middle of his forehead and another on the palm of his right hand.

An FBI press release says Ray has a nervous habit of pulling at his left ear, which sticks out further from his head than does the right ear.

They warn that he must be considered armed and dangerous, as should any persons connected with the crime.

UPI photo

It was all kissing and laughing at this week's Nation 4-H Conference in Washington. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman welcomed Virginia 4-H'er Peggy Sue Zerkel, while Vice President Hubert Humphrey waits his turn. A day later, Freeman endorsed Humphrey for President, saying, "I want a candidate who heals and unifies, not hurts and divides." The Vice President is expected to enter the Presidential race Saturday.

52 AP items
(our copies)
296 - 347

A004
[illegible]
URGENT
LONDON Ray extradition [illegible] 3rd lead A003 add decision.

The magistrate granted Ray legal aid to pursue his appeal in a higher court within the required 15-day deadline.

Ray received the magistrate's decision without any outward show of emotion.

He was immediately led from court, still surrounded by a cordon of Scotland Yard detectives and taken back to his maximum security jail at Wandsworth Prison in South London.

By GODFREY ANDERSON
Associated Press Writer

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 10 AUG 197

[illegible]

A080

bylyyyr

URGENT

Ray 1st A080 Lead

by COLIN FROST

Associated Press Writer

LONDON AP — Minor British charges against James Earl Ray were dropped today, bringing his extradition to the United States a step closer.

Home Secretary James Callaghan was expected within a few hours to sign the extradition order returning the 40-year-old escaped convict to the United States to face trial on a charge of murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The extradition order was issued by Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Frank Milton on July 2. Ray decided on Tuesday not to appeal against it, and the 15-day period for filing an appeal expired Wednesday.

The time of Ray's departure for America is a closely guarded secret. Unofficial reports said a U.S. Air Force transport was standing by at Northolt, a U.S. air base west of London, to take the prisoner and an escort of U.S. marshals to Memphis, Tenn., where the Negro civil rights leader was shot April 4.

The two British charges on which Ray had been held since his arrest at London Airport June 8 were dropped at a brief hearing in the new Bow Street Magistrates Court, the theater for all the British legal proceedings concerning Ray.

The charges were using a forged Canadian passport under the name of Ramon George Sneyd and carrying a loaded gun for which he had no license.

Ray was not in court today.

Ray is American [illegible]

HA[illegible]

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Date 1 8 AUG [illegible]

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Iotlwyyr

[illegible]

Lead Ray [illegible]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

By FRED COLEMAN
Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — A British court ordered James Earl Ray held without bail Monday for a hearing June 18 and the United States obtained a provisional British warrant charging him with the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The formal application for Ray's extradition will be made by the U.S. government in the next day or two. Legal experts said this meant the earliest Ray could be returned to face trial in the United States is June 25.

But they added if he decides to fight extradition the case could drag on here to July or August.

Ray made the first move toward a possible fight by obtaining a British lawyer after the two-minute appearance in Bow Street [illegible]

AP

A029

[illegible]

Ray Bjt 410, 2 takes, 750 total

By COLIN FROST

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — U.S. legal experts worked today on plans to take James Earl Ray quickly and safely back to the United States for trial while police on both sides of the Atlantic continued their investigation to learn whether Ray had help in his four-nation flight.

American authorities took the first formal step toward extradition Monday night by obtaining a provisional British warrant charging Ray with the murder of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Some legal experts suggested the British government might speed up the process by deporting Ray as an undesirable alien. But other lawyers said there is a strong tradition against using this procedure as a substitute for extradition.

The 40-year-old escaped convict was held in Brixton Prison after his two-minute appearance Monday in Bow Street Court on charges of carrying a forged passport and a loaded gun, the charges on which he was arrested at London Airport Saturday under the name of Ramon George Sneyd.

Police equipped with walkie-talkies threw a cordon around the prison and blocked all roads leading to it. Unauthorized persons were kept at least 150 yards away.

Scotland Yard was reported planning to move Ray from Brixton, three miles south of downtown London, to Wandsworth, a jail in a western suburb. Security at Wandsworth has been tightened since Ronald Arthur Briggs, one of the Great Train Robbers, disappeared over the wall there four years ago.

Ray at his first court appearance Monday was assigned a British lawyer at his own request and ordered held without bail for another hearing June 18 on the passport and gun charges.

If extradition proceedings are brought, the court will require evidence of a case against Ray and he will then have 15 days to appeal to the High Court. If Ray's lawyers raised points of law there, a further appeal might be made to the House of Lords and the process could take months.

Some experts saw a precedent for the deportation of Ray in the case of Robert Soblen, who fled from the United States to Israel in 1962 after being sentenced to life imprisonment on charges that he was a Soviet spy. En route back to America, he stabbed himself and was taken off a plane at London for treatment.

The British government ordered Soblen out of the country as an undesirable alien and an appeals court ruled the move legal. But Soblen took poison while being sent to the airport and died.

In the two months American authorities searched for Ray following King's assassination April 4 in Memphis, Tenn., he went from the United States to Canada on April 8, to London May and to Lisbon May 8. He left his Lisbon hotel on May 17 and surfaced again in London on May 28.

Police in those countries sought anyone who might have known or helped Ray, and authorities in Canada also tried to learn how Ray obtained information on the three Toronto men whose names he used as aliases.

All three men have dark hair and are about the same height and weight as Ray.

Ramon George Sneyd, whose name Ray used on his passport, is a Toronto constable. Paul Bridgman, whose name Ray used at one Toronto rooming house, is a consultant teacher with the Toronto board of education.

Ray first was sought under the name Eric Starvo Galt. Eric St. Vincent Galt, a Toronto warehouse foreman, has a signature which looks like Eric Starvo Galt. He uses the middle initials St. V., but with small zeros instead of periods.

Galt and Ray have similar scars in the middle of the palm of the right hand.

[illegible] ae
[illegible] am 500
By [illegible]
Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — James Earl Ray began a legal fight Tuesday against extradition to the United States to face the charge of assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The 40-year-old escaped convict sat silently in a well-guarded dock while his British lawyer asked London's Bow Street Court for as much time as possible to prepare for the extradition hearing.

Judge Frank Milton gave him until June 27, the date he set for the hearing to begin.

As attorneys representing the United States presented their extradition request to Milton, Ray said barely a word and displayed not a flicker of emotion in the eight-minute session.

He was dressed in a neat blue-checked suit, wore heavily rimmed glasses and was surrounded by police in court.

Milton addressed Ray only once, to inform him of when the formal hearing on the extradition request would be held and that he would continue to be held in custody.

Ray replied quietly, "Thank you."

Roger Frisby, the British lawyer defending Ray, told Milton he wanted as much time as possible to prepare, but Milton said he thought it "highly desirable that an early date be fixed."

They compromised on the June 27 date.

An American lawyer is due in London later this week to discuss preparation of Ray's defense if he is extradited to Tennessee to stand trial. King was slain in Memphis April 4.

The lawyer is Arthur J. Hanes, former mayor of Birmingham, Ala., and a segregationist who defended three men accused of murdering Viola Gregg Liuzzo, a civil rights worker, in Alabama three years ago. [illegible] Hanes said he "understands [illegible] about payment for Ray's defense.

Hanes told newsmen in Birmingham he was telephoned by Ray's court-appointed London attorneys and then received a handwritten letter signed "R.G. Sneyd" asking him to handle the case.

Ramon George Sneyd is the name under which Ray was arrested at London Airport June 8, carrying a forged Canadian passport and a loaded gun.

Ray is still held by the British on passport and gun charges, but British police agreed to defer consideration of these until the extradition hearing ends. If Ray is extradited, the charges probably will be dropped.

The British attorneys representing the United States said they would produce a fingerprint expert at the extradition hearing, presumably to testify on Ray's identity. The rest of the hearing, which will probably last one day, is expected to be taken up with a review of the case against Ray.

If Milton grants extradition, Ray could still appeal to the High Court and then the House of Lords. Such appeals usually are based on the argument that the case against the defendant is a political one. British extradition law forbids surrender of suspects in political cases.

This was Ray's second routine hearing at the Bow Street court, and for the second time it was packed with policemen.

At least 100 London uniformed and plain-clothes police were assigned to guard duties. Two dozen of them were in the courtroom. Many more lined the corridors through which Ray had to pass from the police station cells next door.

Police frisked all reporters and spectators who entered the courtroom, inspecting handbags and briefcases. The doors were locked during the hearing and a line of police stood facing the public.

After the hearing three Jaguar sedans escorted a police van carrying Ray back to [illegible] Prison where he is held in [illegible]

a094

ulv

Ray Reconstruction,1st 880 - taken total 1,230

By GODFREY ANDERSON

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — James Earl Ray seemed to be an easy going fugitive until something alarmed him three days before his arrest.

Then, overnight, he was jumpy and sought to hide himself. The bars and restaurants of [illegible] and London saw him no more. He switched to an obscure [illegible] hotel, locked himself in, changed his whole mode of life.

When he went out it was only to buy cold snacks from the shop around the corner. He ate them in his room. And his nervousness seemed to increase when he was twice informed that his planned flights out of England had been delayed.

The Pax Hotel in Pimlico where Ray stayed and called himself Ramon George Sneyd presents a largely anonymous face to the outside world.

It is a cream-painted three-story building in a street filled with others just like it, a two-minute walk away in the British Overseas Airways Terminal and the busy Victoria continental rail depot.

There's no name on the black-painted door and the electric sign above it only says "Hotel." The push-button by the knocker is labeled "Bell." The telephone number is unlisted. The [illegible] is discreet.

Most Britons have never heard of the Pax Hotel. Nor has the nearby rail depot, or the [illegible].

Mrs. Thomas [illegible] 44-year-old wife of an Englishman, bought the place recently, redecorated it from top to bottom and opened in April. She had seven rooms and can accommodate a total of 10 guests.

She saw little of Sneyd during the three days he was with her from last Wednesday to Saturday. He was already lying low.

"He arrived in the middle of a violent rainstorm Wednesday evening," Mrs. Thomas said today. "There was no one in the hotel because I'd only just returned from visiting my 86-year-old mother in Stockholm.

"He had only an airline bag as luggage, but I gave him No. 1 on the second floor, a [illegible] with only an airline bag [illegible] between [illegible]."

Mrs. Thomas said Sneyd didn't have much to say.

"He said he was from Toronto. I asked him about Toronto. He said there was a lot of unemployment there."

But she noticed he was nervous and ill at ease.

MORE

[illegible] June 10

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Date 19 AUG [illegible]

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hotel that Ray [illegible] roomed 950

"He hardly ever went out and then only to buy food, newspapers and cigarettes," [illegible] said.

"He seemed so ill and stayed in bed all day. He told me he had arrived on an early flight and was very tired. He seemed very, very nervous."

His room assigned to Ray was at the rear of the ground floor. It looks out on to a tiny backyard surrounded by a wall. The wallpaper is patterned with [illegible] and there are yellow drapes at the lace-curtained window. A bathroom is in the corridor outside next door and two steps down.

Mrs. Thomas said she only once got into the room while he was there. That was when he'd slipped out for aspirin. She found he'd made the bed and tidied up, and he'd washed his own shirts.

When she brought him breakfast the first morning he refused to open the door and told her to leave the tray outside. She asked him for the hotel register which she'd given him to sign. He put it out later when she went and she found he had signed it.

Mrs. Thomas said Sneyd had no visitors and only two phone calls — both from a girl at British European Airways about his planned flight booking to Germany.

"I didn't know who he was when she asked for Mr. Sneyd," said Mrs. Thomas. "I said: 'Do you mean the Canadian?' And that was it."

BEA telephoned Sneyd on Thursday and again on Friday. Mrs. Thomas pushed the messages under his door. He didn't open or answer.

"He said he would be leaving Saturday," she said, "and I said to myself, 'Good riddance.'"

But she moved him upstairs to No. 8 for his last night in the Pax Hotel, because No. 1 had been booked for someone else.

Sneyd paid his hotel check with a five-pound bill, the equivalent of $12, then he went out for the last time through that anonymous-looking street door. He was arrested at Heathrow Airport a few hours later.

He was booked on a flight for Brussels, not Germany. But there was no clear lead as to why he might go to either place.

Brussels airport police had Ray's name with a couple of aliases on their watch lists according to an informant of the Belgian state police. But they had no picture of the man.

Speculation in Brussels ranged from the suggestion that he

[illegible]

Clipped June 10

was en route to Eastern Europe, or just hoped to lose himself in the continental summer vacation crowds.
MORE
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A018
story
LONDON Take 2 Ray reconstructions A015: crowds 260
There was mystery about some of Ray's earlier movements. London airport officials first said he had been arrested upon flying in from Lisbon. Later they said he was outward bound for Brussels. Mrs. Thomas said he had been intending to fly to Germany.
Reports from Lisbon showed the man known as Sneyd had certainly been in Lisbon earlier. He was registered at the third category Hotel Portugal May 8 at 6 p.m. arriving from Lisbon Airport with a flight bag and a suitcase.
The hotel has only sleeping accommodations and no restaurant service.
He signed the register as Ramon George Sneya, 36, Canadian, without profession. The same spelling error in the surname also appeared on his passport and the Canadian Embassy in Lisbon said he noted this when he asked for a new passport there.
He stayed in room No. 2 on the first floor of the Hotel Portugal until May 17, when he left at 10 a.m. and paid 60.50 escudos or just over $2 per day.
The hotel staff said he usually went out about 10 each morning, often returning 12 and 14 hours later.
He appeared to have plenty of Portuguese currency and possibly ate his meals in local restaurants or bars.
The general impression Sneya gave the hotel staff was that of "a man of few words."
What he might have done in Portugal was not clear. But Ian Colvin, a reporter for the London Daily Telegraph who has close contacts with European groups recruiting foreign mercenaries in Africa, said he talked with a man calling himself Ramon Sneyd several times by telephone last Tuesday; the conversation gave a hint.
Colvin said: "When he first spoke, a Canadian or perhaps an American voice said to me: 'This is Raymond Sneyd. I want to join my brother who has been in Portuguese Angola.' "
Ray has 10 brothers and sisters. None is known to be outside the United States.
Colvin said Ray called him again last Thursday and said, "this time he was more explicit. He said his brother was not missing but that he had not seen him for four months. It was not so much that he wanted to start a search for his brother, but he wished to become a mercenary in Africa himself."
Reports have circulated that some of the white mercenaries who fought in the Congo have now joined Portuguese forces battling guerrilla armies in its African territories.
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LONDON Take 4 Ray reconstruction [illegible] 350

There is a gap not yet explained in Sneyd's movements between May 17, when he left the hotel in Portugal and May 28 when he turned up at the New Earls Court Hotel in London.

This hotel is near the big Earls Court Stadium in West London, scene of Billy Graham's British crusades. It is in an area thickly dotted with hotels, large and small, charging moderate prices.

The population of Earls Court is cosmopolitan. Here Londoners rub shoulders with Australians and New Zealanders, Canadians, Indians and Pakistanis, Negroes from Africa or Jamaica. It is a shifting population of students and workers. No one stays very long. And everyone minds his own business.

The New Earls Court Hotel is where Sneyd from May 28 to last Wednesday, when something apparently alarmed him and he shifted a couple of miles east to the even greater anonymity of Pimlico's Pax Hotel.

At the New Earls Court, which is usually full, Sneyd had room No. [illegible], a third-floor single.

Jane Ennis, 21-year-old receptionist, remembers Sneyd as "very quiet, nervous, particularly shy and unsure of himself."

She said he had no visitors at the hotel and no telephone messages. Because the hotel only serves breakfast, he went out for his meals. He took breakfast in the hotel dining room with other guests.

Miss Ennis said Sneyd signed the hotel register but she could not show it because the police had taken it away.

The New Earls Court Hotel, like the Pax, is near an air terminal. Only a few minutes away is the big air terminal of British European Airways, departure and arrival point for all European flights.

[illegible] June 10

A034

nyyuiv

Ray Bjt NL, 410 3 takes total 1,250

By MICHAEL R. CODEL

Associated Press Writer

LONDON AP — The U.S. government obtained Monday night a provisional British warrant charging James Earl Ray with the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., clearing ground for a formal application in the next day or two for Ray's return to the United States.

The move followed a calm and impassive appearance by Ray at a perfunctory, two-minute British court session during which he was assigned a British lawyer in what legal experts said could be his first move to fight extradition for trial.

It was the first bit of legal sparring in a case capable of spiralling into months of argument if the suspect contests the U.S. Justice Department request to extradite him "very soon."

Legal sources said the earliest possible date for Ray's return would be June 29, but arguments could run into August if there is a battle.

Quick movement was already delayed Monday when Ray, 40, was ordered held without bail by Chief Magistrate Frank Milton, for a hearing June 18. The issuance of the warrant followed.

Asst. U.S. Atty. Gen. Fred M. Vinson Jr., is expected to make formal application to Britain's home secretary for extradition as soon as he receives the necessary documentation from the United States.

The home secretary, James Callaghan, will forward the application to the chief magistrate at Bow Street Court who will consider whether the documentary evidence submitted by Vinson would be substantial for extradition. The application is expected to reach the court on Tuesday.

Ray will then have 15 days to apply for a writ of habeas corpus.

Under British law and the 1935 treaty of extradition between Britain and the United States, the home secretary cannot surrender Ray to U.S. authorities before/15 days have passed.

Security measures so tight that even lawyers submitted to frisking, were in effect when Ray, husky and straight shouldered, was brought into court Monday. No one except the police and legal officers had seen Ray since his arrest Saturday when he tried to board a plane for Brussels.

Under the name Sneyd, Ray was charged with using a false passport with that name and carrying an unlicensed, loaded gun. There was no mention in court of the name Ray ~~or of~~ the American charges against him.

Sitting a few feet from the suspect was Vinson, who went directly from the court to a second day of consultations with British officials in his effort to speed up Ray's extradition.

U.S. legal officials in London had said earlier "the process toward extradition is already in motion and we hope to get him back to the United States very soon."

Ray is sought on an American federal warrant charging that he took part in a conspiracy to deprive King of his civil rights. He is also charged by a Tennessee court with first-degree murder in the slaying of King in Memphis April 4.

The suspect was flanked by two policemen as he faced the bench. For security reasons, Ray did not mount the raised witness stand. A cordon of police stood between him and the gallery in back of the room, providing a human shield against any possible attempt on Ray's life.

A score of policemen stood against the walls, eyeing the spectators, who included a few Negroes and four women.

MORE

E237Ped June 10

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Date

AP 10 June 68

A score of policemen stood against the walls, eyeing the
spectators, who included a few Negroes and four women.
MORE MORE
1257ped June 10

A035
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LONDON Take 2 Ray Bjt A034: words 570

Ray looked the picture of holiday health—well tanned, his
straight black hair combed back and tinged with gray at the temples.
He wore a dark blue suit with brown checks and a blue shirt.
He stood quietly with his hands folded behind his back. He
didn't turn his head, and seemed to ignore the 100 or so newsmen,
police and spectators crammed into the back of the court.
Detective Superintendent Thomas Butler, in a low voice,
named Ray as Sneyd and listed the charges. He then asked for a
"remand"—that Ray be held in custody—until June 18.
This is a normal procedure used while the British prosecution
prepares its case.
The judge accepted Ray's written application for a lawyer, who
was later named as Michael Dresden. His office refused to
comment on the case.
Before Ray left the court, Milton asked in a
barely audible voice if he wanted legal restrictions on press
coverage lifted.
Ray replied firmly: "No, sir."
Milton then asked Ray: "Do you have anything to say?"
Again, the firm answer: "No, sir."
Milton ordered Ray held for a further hearing next Tuesday
and the prisoner was swiftly escorted out of the courtroom and
into a van believed headed to the top security Brixton
Prison.
About 300 spectators and newsmen had lined up for more than two
hours in the warm sunshine before the great oak doors to Bow
Street Court swung open just after 10 a.m. The crowd surged
forward but was blocked by a dozen plain-clothesmen.
The onlookers and newsmen were admitted one by one and searched
from head to toe for concealed weapons. Only the first 100
were admitted. The rest, including flower sellers from
neighboring Covent Gardens and a few pin-striped
businessmen, had to wait outside.
The warrant granted by the Bow Street Court will
be served on Ray, arrested here under the name Ramon George
Sneyd, by British police in his prison cell.
It is expected that Ray will be moved from Brixton Prison where
he is now held to Wandsworth Prison later this week. This move is
being made so that two police officers may be
stationed in Ray's cell to keep a 24-hour watch on him.
Under the regime at Wandsworth Prison, Ray will be
permitted to wear his own clothes and buy his own food. He will not
be required to work and limited visiting privileges will be
granted, principally to permit him to see his attorneys.
It is expected that the application for an extradition order will
be made both on the charge of murder and that of robbery for
which he was serving a sentence in Missouri State Penitentiary
when he escaped.
MORE MORE
1S407ped June 10

AP 10 June 68

Washington will have night leads on gun-control legislation and trade hearings.

The AP

1341ped June 10

A038

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LONDON—Take 3 Ray bjt A034-5; escaped 470

Vinson is expected to produce a certificate from the warden of the Missouri penitentiary that Ray is an escaped prisoner, and additional documentation from Tennessee on the murder charge.

The extradition proceedings will be held in open court. Formally, the documentation submitted would be read in court.

Legal sources expect Ray to ask for a new team of attorneys to defend him on the extradition request. The attorneys then would be likely to ask for time to study the case.

If convicted on a charge of entering Britain illegally, Ray could simply be deported. However, legal experts here say there is a strong tradition against using this measure as a substitute for extradition.

The 15-day period following the extradition hearing is designed to permit an appeal to the High Court. This presumably could be dealt with quickly by the High Court, but if Ray's attorneys raised a point of law a further appeal could be made to the House of Lords.

The extradition treaty provides that a person shall not be surrendered for a "political offense." This might form a possible basis for appeal on Ray's behalf.

As Ray appeared in court, bits and pieces emerged of the life he led while on the run. Ray entered Canada April 8, spent until May 6 in Toronto, then left aboard a BOAC plane for London. He went from there to Lisbon May 8, and stayed in the Portuguese capital until May 17.

It is believed he then returned to London, traveling on the Canadian passport he obtained in Lisbon. He had received one earlier in Toronto by applying through the mails, using the name of Sneyd, a Toronto constable. But Ray did not resurface until May 28 in London.

He apparently had an idea of going on to Brussels, where he thought he might join a mercenary army and ship out to Africa. This supposition grew out of the report of a British journalist, Ian Colvin, who said a man identifying himself as Ramon Sneyd questioned him by telephone last week about joining a mercenary group.

Police in Toronto, London and Lisbon were directing their investigations toward determining if Ray had assistance—people who might have known him or helped him.

In Toronto, a spokesman for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said there was no definite indication that Ray had any contacts during the month he spent in the city.

This followed a report that Mrs. Sun Loo, the owner of a rooming house in which he stayed, said that she saw a "fat man" pass a small envelope to Ray about four days before he flew to London. Ray got the envelope on the day his rent was due and the day he paid $345 for an excursion flight ticket to London.

The RCMP spokesman said preliminary investigation showed that the man who delivered the package did not know Ray and was simply making a delivery. "Every effort is being made to trace this man, but so far there is no indication as to who he is," the spokesman said.

Toronto Metropolitan police dismissed another report that a blonde woman, calling herself "Sneyd's aunt," picked up a birth certificate for him at a provincial registrar's office.

Waiters at a bar in Toronto's West End said they remember seeing

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seee

Ray-Timetable

TORONTO (AP) -- Here is a timetable of events leading to the arrest in London Saturday of James Earl Ray, suspected assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. April 4 at Memphis, Tenn.:

April 8--Arrived in Toronto, taking room at 102 Ossington Ave. on the fringe of central Toronto in the name of Paul Bridgman.

April 11--Had passport photos taken at a downtown studio, using name Bridgman. A letter purporting to be from Bridgman was received by the provincial secretary's office and a birth certificate was mailed to 102 Ossington Ave., Toronto. It was returned later marked "person unknown."

April 16--Using the name Ramon George Sneyd, he asked Kennedy Travel Bureau to get him passport and round-trip ticket to London.

April 17--Passport application was sent to Ottawa.

April 19--An application for a birth certificate to the provincial secretary in the name of Sneyd was received and a certificate was mailed to 962 Dundas St. W.

April 19--Moved into Dundas Street rooming house, also on fringe of central Toronto.

April 25--Passport was approved in Ottawa and returned to Kennedy Trav Bureau.

May 2--Dundas Street boarding house landlady said a fat man called on Ray and gave him envelope.

May 6--Flew to London.

RR817ped June 10

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
19 AUG 1976
Date

AP 10 June 68

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19 AUG 1976
Date

A035
fyyfyyf
Ray Insert
LONDON — Ray 3rd lead A060 insert after 12th graf:
jails.
Michael Dresden was named by the court as Ray's solicitor.
Dresden will prepare the defense and choose a lawyer to argue
this case in court.
Dresden's office declined to answer questions about the case,
including what stand it might take on an extradition request.
A solicitor prepares the case for the accused and chooses the
barrister who does the pleading in court.
The solicitor acts as a key link between the accused,
the barrister and the court.
American legal: 13th graf, 1st graf 1055
s944aed June 10

AP 10 June 68

A098
ryyrzyy
Ray insert 130
LONDON Ray 3rd lead A060 to update insert after 21st graf
16th graf A076 : in Africa.

Police informants in Brussels said authorities there had been notified about Ray's two aliases and were alerted ~~that~~ he might be heading there.

New leads on people who might have had contact with Ray or helped him were turning up, but the police in Toronto, where he~~m~~

months were checking a lead from the owner of a boarding house where he stayed.

Mrs. Sun Loo said a

New leads on people who might have had contact with Ray or helped him were turning up, but the police in Toronto, where he spent a months were checking a lead from the owner of a boarding house where he stayed.

Mrs. Sun Loo said she saw a "fat man" pass a small envelope to Ray about four days before he flew to London May 6. She said she could not give a detailed description of the man and did not know what was in the envelope. Ray got the envelope on the day his rent was due and the day he paid $345 for an excursion flight ticket to London.

Ray arrived in Portugal May 8 where he stayed in the Hotel Portugal until May 17 paying just over $2 a day for his room on the first floor. Staff at the hotel recall that he was generally out of his room 15 or 16 hours a day.

Ray is wanted: 22nd graf.
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Date 19

AP 10 June 68

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Ray-Canada 280

TORONTO AP — People who encountered James Earl Ray in the month he spent in Canada after the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. say he once was handed an envelope by a fat man and that he visited a bar several times to drink beer and watch go-go dancers.

Mrs. Yee Sun Loo, Ray's landlady at one of two Toronto rooming houses where he stayed, said the fat man was the only visitor King's suspected killer had in 15 days.

Ray got the envelope on the day his $9-a-week rent was due and the day he paid a Toronto travel agency $346 for a round trip air ticket to London. Ray arrived in London in mid-May and was arrested there Saturday.

A spokesman for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said, however, detectives were not convinced that Ray was helped by accomplices while in Toronto.

"On the contrary, the only indication of that is that one man delivered an envelope and left," the spokesman said. "It may have been mail or something from a travel bureau."

Habitues of two Toronto pool halls said he showed up but walked away when asked to shoot a game.

Two waiters at the Silver Dollar Bar in the Waverly Hotel said they saw Ray sitting at a front-row table, drinking beer and watching the go-go dancers.

It was believed that Ray was at the bar with another man for two or three consecutive nights between April 30 and May 3.

A blonde dancer also said she had seen Ray. She said another dancer, Patti Stanford, pointed him out.

The dancer described the man with Ray as fair complexioned, husky and wearing a yellow T-shirt.

Of Ray, she said: "He looked at me. It wasn't the way a man looks at a girl. It was . . . sort of like he didn't approve."

"The first night I smiled at him. He looked kind of disgusted."

Police said Ray may have spent two months in Montreal last summer. They said a man resembling Ray and using the name of Eric Starvo Galt, one of Ray's aliases, checked into a Montreal rooming house early in July and stayed until early September.

The janitor of the rooming house, they said, identified Ray from photographs and said he thought at the time that Ray was an American tourist visiting Expo 67.

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AP 10 June 68

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[illegible] Nashville 1070 [illegible]

WASHINGTON (AP) — Documents to back up the U.S. request to Britain for extradition of James Earl Ray have arrived in Washington and will be dispatched to London shortly, the State Department announced Tuesday.

The extradition proceedings require [illegible] and the documents were prepared at the Justice Department [illegible] from Tennessee where Ray is wanted for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and from Missouri where Ray was convicted of armed robbery.

Both of these are grounds for extradition under the 1931 U.S.-British extradition treaty.

Ray was arrested by the British Saturday and is being held for the time being on charges of [illegible] false passport and possession of an unlicensed pistol.

Officials said that the U.S. provisional request for Ray's arrest already had been made [illegible] follow-through with documents supporting the U.S. claim that he should be extradited to this country.

Earlier Tuesday, Tennessee Gov. Buford Ellington signed and forwarded all the necessary papers for Tennessee's bid for extradition of Ray to stand trial [illegible] King was assassinated in Memphis.

A [illegible] 1070 Nashville [illegible]

[illegible] Jun 11

AP 11 June 68

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

A080
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LONDON: Take 3: Ray, A078-hand.

"I don't know what to think," Galt said. "It's a bit more than coincidence. The weight is right, the height range is right and the identification marks are there.

"I've wondered where our paths might have crossed, but I just don't know."

Galt said he was in the Memphis area two years ago and that he traveled regularly to Florida for skin diving in the summer.

Ray, however, was in the Missouri state prison until he escaped in April 1967 with more than 13 years remaining of a 20-year sentence. Missouri also seeks Ray's extradition from Britain on the prison break charge. If he is returned to the United States, the Tennessee murder charge is expected to be given precedence over the Missouri charge and a federal charge that Ray conspired to violate King's civil rights.

Police believe Ray was the man who checked into a Montreal rooming house last summer under the name of Galt. Galt said he was not in Montreal last summer and that FBI agents told him he was the only Eric S. Galt in Canada.

Canadian police also were checking a report by Mrs. Yee Sun Loo, owner of a Toronto rooming house where Ray stayed, that a "fat man" passed an envelope to Ray on May 2, the day he paid $345 for an excursion flight ticket to London.

A spokesman for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said preliminary investigation indicated the man may not have known Ray and may just have been making a delivery.

"Every effort is being made to trace this man, but so far there is no indication as to who he is," the spokesman said.

Others in Toronto who encountered a man they thought was Ray included two waiters at the Silver Dollar Bar in the Waverly Hotel and a go-go dancer there. The waiters said the man sat at a front table, drinking beer and watching the dancers.

"He looked at me," said the dancer. "It wasn't the way a man looks at a girl. It was . . . sort of like he didn't approve. The first night I smiled at him. He looked kind of disgusted."

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Date ____________

AP 11 June 68

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

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[illegible] 2 takes total 610
By [illegible]
Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — James Earl Ray was transferred Tuesday to a maximum security cell in fortress-like Wandsworth Prison and Scotland Yard detectives scoured his London haunts to learn if he had contacts in Britain.

Legal moves were under way to extradite Ray to the United States to stand trial charged with the April 4 sniper slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Police on both sides of the Atlantic tried to untangle Ray's travels that took him to Canada, Britain and Portugal before his arrest Saturday at London Airport as he prepared to fly to Belgium.

Extradition could take up to two months if the 40-year-old Ray decides to fight it through the British courts. American authorities have obtained a provisional British warrant charging Ray with the murder of King in Memphis, Tenn.

Gov. Buford Ellington of Tennessee has signed "all necessary papers" required for the state's request that Ray be returned for trial, a spokesman for the governor said.

A State Department spokesman in Washington said documents to back up the extradition request had arrived there and "will be transmitted to London shortly." The documents are from Tennessee and from Missouri where Ray was convicted of armed robbery and escaped from prison in 1967 by hiding in a bread truck.

British police held Ray on charges of using a forged passport and carrying a gun. On Scotland Yard's records he is officially listed as Ramon George Sneyd, the name on his Canadian passport.

British detectives were using the passport charge as legal grounds to investigate his movements in London. Although he has been traced to two London hotels between May 28 and his arrest, there was an unexplained gap of about 10 days starting on May 17, when he left Lisbon for London.

FBI agents were understood to be working with Scotland Yard. The British police were doing the actual spadework since the FBI has no legal authority in foreign countries.

Scotland Yard was completely silent on where it was looking. But one officer said: "On the basis of this passport charge we can get a warrant if we want to search a place, and then go in and dab fingerprint it. If we find the prints we're looking for, we know we're on the right track."

Under British law, it is possible for police with a search warrant to enter a house without giving any explanation of their reasons. Therefore they can raid a home or hotel on Ray's trail without specifying the object of their search.

One of the objects was understood to be establishing if Ray made contact with anyone in London who might have aided him. Such information would be passed directly to the FBI.

Now that Ray has been charged under British law, there is no possibility of Scotland Yard's interrogating him outside a courtroom.

U.S. officials, fearful that prosecution of Ray might be jeopardized, are staying well away from him. They have not questioned Ray.

Fred M. Vinson Jr., an assistant U.S. attorney general, said he "got a glimpse" of Ray but did not speak to him.

[illegible] MORE MORE
[illegible]407ped June 11

AP 11 June 68

APPROVED FOR
Date 19 AUG 197

[illegible] 2 Takes

By [illegible]
Associated Press Writer

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Fred M. Vinson Jr., [illegible] former [illegible] general, [illegible] said he "got a glimpse" of Ray [illegible]

MORE

[illegible]-0407ped June 11

A046
[illegible]
LONDON Add 8 Ray [illegible]

"It would be improper for any American official to interrogate him at this stage," Vinson said. But British authorities said Ray could refuse any attempt by American authorities to question him until he is in U.S. custody.

Britain could hasten Ray's extradition by deporting him as an undesirable alien and the gun charge would be sufficient to do it. But some legal experts said there is a strong tradition against using deportation procedures as a substitute for extradition.

Ray made a two-minute appearance in court Monday on the passport and gun charges. He was assigned a British lawyer at his own request and ordered held without bail for another hearing June 18.

In extradition proceedings, the court would require evidence of a case against Ray and he would then have 15 days to appeal to the High Court. A further appeal could also be made to the House of Lords, causing additional delay.

British authorities set up secure custody for Ray while the extradition proceedings move forward. Ray was first sent to Brixton Prison, a transit and holding jail on London's south side. Although shifts of detectives had him under guard around the clock, it was not felt secure enough.

Ray was then shifted to Wandsworth Prison, also on the south side, and put in an isolation cell under two-man guard.

Wandsworth, a huge brick and stone structure surrounded by walls, houses long-term prisoners.

Security at Wandsworth has been tightened considerably since Ronald Biggs, one of Britain's great train robbers, fled over the walls four years ago. Like most of the 14 men who have escaped from inside Wandsworth since 1962, Biggs made his getaway from the exercise yard.

Ray is not expected to be allowed out of his cell for exercise.

M341Sped June 11

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 10 AUG 1976

[illegible]

[illegible] (AP) -- Gov. Buford Ellington today [illegible] necessary formal [illegible] extradition formal request that James Earl Ray be returned from London to Memphis to stand trial for murder in the sniper slaying of Martin Luther King.

A spokesman for the governor's office said the extradition papers were forwarded to the State Department in Washington.

The spokesman declined to elaborate when asked if the extradition papers cited a Shelby County Grand Jury indictment returned at Memphis for first-degree murder in the April 4 sniper slaying of King.

"We're not going into details at this time," the spokesman, News Secretary Dudley Crockett, replied. "We can only say that the governor has signed all necessary papers."

Ray was arrested Saturday in London by Scotland Yard detectives as he sought to pass immigration officials en route to Brussels, Belgium.

EM1250CD June 11

A071RW

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URGENT

1st Ld-Ray A070 add: Brussels, Belgium.

American authorities took the first formal step toward extradition Monday by obtaining a provisional British warrant charging Ray with the murder of King, leading civil rights advocate of nonviolence.

Some legal experts also suggested the British government might speed up the process by deporting Ray as an undesirable alien, but other lawyers said there is a strong tradition against using this procedure as a substitute for extradition.

Ray is accused of shooting King to death as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis motel where he was staying while preparing to lead a march demonstration on behalf of the city's 1,300 garbage workers.

The workers at that time, and for some time after King's death, were on strike to gain recognition by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes.

The strike subsequently has been settled, with the workers gaining the right of union representation.

EM0?PCD June 11

AP 11 June 68

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

A032
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ray-Canada 240
TORONTO AP — An assistant supermarket manager said Tuesday he found a man who resembled James Earl Ray, accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., prowling in the back of the store April 20.

Samuel Marshall said the man told him he was looking for a job but left the store when Emerson Dennis, the manager, approached. Marshall surmised the man may have been sizing up the store for a possible holdup.

Not until the next day, Marshall said, did he see a magazine photograph of King's suspected killer and concluded that the man in the store was Ray. He said he decided to go to the U.S. consulate with his information but became involved in a traffic accident on the way. Marshall said he then gave the information to a policeman but heard nothing further about it. A police spokesman said there was no record of such a report.

Ray, arrested Saturday in London, lived in two rooming houses in Toronto for a month after King was shot dead April 4 in Memphis, Tenn.

Police interviewed hundreds of persons Tuesday in an effort to trace all of Ray's movements in Toronto. Investigators said they were trying to find out whether he had friends in the city.

An employe at a magazine store said a man who resembled Ray bought two cellophane-wrapped books at $1 each and paid for them with quarters. A woman who operates a variety store near one rooming house where Ray stayed said he bought cigarettes there.

Mrs. Sun Loo, Ray's landlady, was reported to have found in his room after he left for London an empty overnight bag, six rolls of film, a photographic light meter, a small empty strongbox, a map of Toronto, three girlie magazines, nine empty beer bottles and a dirty white shirt.

0334pED June 11

AP 11 June 68

A101

[illegible]

Pm-Brit Lead 520

By COLIN FROST

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) -- James Earl Ray, the escaped convict accused of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was transferred under police guard today to Wandsworth Prison where security has been tightened since one of Britain's great train robbers went over the walls four years ago.

Wandsworth is considered a safer place for Ray than Brixton Prison where Ray has been held since his arrest Saturday.

U.S. legal experts worked on plans to take Ray quickly and safely back to the United States for trial and police on both sides of the Atlantic tried to learn if Ray had help in his four-nation flight.

American authorities took the first formal step toward extradition Monday night by obtaining a provisional British warrant charging Ray with the murder of King on April 4 in Memphis, Tenn.

In Nashville, Tenn., Gov. Buford Ellington signed "all necessary papers" required for Tennessee's request that Ray be returned to stand trial for murder. The extradition papers were forwarded to the U.S. State Department, a spokesman for the governor said.

Some legal experts suggested Britain might speed the process by deporting Ray as an undesirable alien, but other lawyers said there is a strong tradition against using that procedure as a substitute for extradition.

The 40-year-old Ray made a two-minute appearance Monday in Bow Street Court on charges of carrying a forged passport and a loaded gun, the charges on which he was arrested at London Airport under the name of Ramon George Sneyd.

Police equipped with walkie-talkies cordoned Brixton Prison and blocked all roads leading to it, keeping unauthorized persons at least 100 yards away. Similar maximum security measures were taken for Ray's transfer to Wandsworth, a jail in a western suburb of London.

New security measures were instituted at Wandsworth since Ronald Arthur Biggs, one of the train robbers disappeared over the wall. Ray escaped from Missouri State Prison in 1967 by hiding in a bread truck.

Wandsworth is used for Britain's long-term prisoners and Ray will have two British police officers in his cell around the clock.

American authorities have not yet interrogated Ray and legal experts say he can veto any attempt to do so as long as he is in British custody.

[illegible] ADS

[illegible]pcd June 11

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE [illegible]

AP 11 June 68

A019

[illegible]

RAY [illegible]

By LAWRENCE MALKIN

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — The British government started speedy official action on a formal U.S. request Wednesday for the extradition of James Earl Ray, wanted in Tennessee for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By the end of the day the application had cleared its first legal hurdle at the British Foreign Office.

But court formalities and appeals by the 40-year-old escaped convict opposed to U.S. efforts could delay Ray's return up to six weeks or even longer should the case take some unexpected turn.

U.S. officials, headed by Asst. Atty. Gen. Fred M. Vinson Jr., chief of the Justice Department's criminal division, beat their self-imposed deadline for handing in the petition by one day.

But many of the details which went to make an inch-thick [illegible] when it was handed in to the Foreign Office by U.S. Consul General [illegible] apparently had been leaked in advance of Ray's arrest last Saturday at London Airport as he tried to board a plane for Brussels.

The petition contained a summary of some of the evidence against Ray in the King murder at a Memphis motel April 4.

It also contained information on his escape from the Missouri [illegible] charges [illegible] extradition on both counts. [illegible] would also be crimes [illegible] under British as well as U.S. law [illegible] other material [illegible].

The petition also contained [illegible] found [illegible] identify [illegible] Ray [illegible] held here [illegible] Canadian passport [illegible]

[illegible] the Foreign [illegible] of the [illegible] extradition treaty between the two countries [illegible] comparable to [illegible] the U.S. Justice Department [illegible] a case against Ray [illegible] preliminary [illegible] metropolitan magistrate [illegible]

[illegible]

MORE

[illegible]

AP 12 June 68

Date 19 AUG 1976

[illegible]
By COLIN FROST
Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — Scotland Yard delved today into the mysteries of James Earl Ray's stay in Britain as U.S. officials worked on their case for the extradition of the man accused of killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray has been traced to two London hotels between May 28 and his arrest Saturday, but there is an unexplained gap of about 10 days starting May 17 when he left Lisbon.

FBI agents were understood to be working with Scotland Yard detectives, but British police are doing the spadework since the FBI has no legal authority in foreign countries. Police on both sides of the Atlantic are trying to untangle Ray's travels, which took him to Canada, Britain and Portugal after King was shot April 4.

Ray was transferred Tuesday to a maximum security cell in Wandsworth Prison because Brixton Jail on London's South Side was not considered secure enough.

Extradition proceedings could last two months if the 40-year-old escaped convict fights all the way through the British courts.

As a first step, American authorities have obtained a provisional British warrant charging Ray with the murder of King in Memphis, Tenn. A State Department spokesman in Washington said documents to support the extradition request "will be transmitted to London shortly."

The British police are holding Ray on charges of using a forged passport and carrying a loaded gun. On Scotland Yard's records he is officially listed as Ramon George Sneyd, the name on his Canadian passport.

U.S. officials have not tried to question Ray to avoid legal complications resulting from Supreme Court decisions in recent years. And now that he has been charged under British law Scotland Yard cannot interrogate him outside a courtroom.

While British police were trying to ascertain whether Ray had any contacts in London, detectives in Toronto were searching for a short blond man who reportedly came looking for Ray in a rooming house three or four days after the suspect flew to London.

The landlady, Mrs. Fela Szpakowski, told police about the caller, the second Ray reportedly had during his month-long stay in Toronto after the assassination of King. The first was an unidentified fat man who was reported to have called on Ray at another rooming house.

Mrs. Szpakowski said the blond caller presented a police identification card, but both the Mounted Police and the Toronto police said he was not a policeman.

Toronto detectives also questioned Samuel Marshall, an assistant manager of a supermarket who claimed he saw a man resembling Ray in his store on April 26. Marshall reportedly told police the man asked for employment but left when the store manager approached.

An employe in a magazine store told Toronto police a man who resembled Ray bought two cellophane-wrapped books and paid the $10 price in quarters. A woman who operates a variety store near one of the rooming houses where Ray stayed said he bought cigarettes there.

Mrs. Sun Loo, Ray's other landlady, was reported to have found in his room after he left for London an empty overnight bag, six rolls of film, a photographic light meter, a small empty strongbox, a map of Toronto, three girlie magazines, three empty beer bottles and a dirty white shirt.

The Atlanta, Ga., Constitution, in a copyright article, said that an apartment manager in the Southern city's hippie district reported a man using the name Eric Starvo Galt stayed in his building for more than a week prior to the slaying of King. The name is one of the aliases under which Ray was sought by the FBI.

The manager said the man "looked more like a preacher than a convict."
[illegible] June 12

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Date

AP 12 June 68

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

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URGENT

Ray-1st lead

LONDON (AP) — A formal request for the extradition of James Earl Ray, accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was handed to the British Foreign Office today by U.S. officials.

The documents were handed to the Foreign Office's treaties and nationalities section by U.S. Consul General Jack Herfurt.

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AP 12 June 68

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(copy)
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LONDON Ray Lead A077 adds [illegible].

The U.S. Embassy declined details of the petition, but merely described it as "documents required for the extradition proceedings."

Stressing the urgency with which the U.S. Justice Department regards the case, officials managed to deliver the necessary documents a day ahead of their own deadline.

The documents run several hundred pages and contain information on Ray's identity and the cases against him—both in connection with King's murder and Ray's escape from the Missouri State Prison while serving an armed robbery sentence.

The Foreign Office now must certify that the request satisfies the terms of the extradition treaty with the United States. The Home Office then rules on the validity of the murder case under British as well as U.S. law. Then the file goes to a judge for a court hearing.

The formal extradition request came as Scotland Yard delved into the mysteries of Ray's stay in Britain.

Ray Lead, 2nd Add A077

By COLIN FROST
Associated Press Writer
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Date 19 AUG 1976

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EY

LONDON--add 2 Ray [illegible] Thursday [illegible]

Under normal procedure Milton would study the petition and schedule a hearing about a week after receiving it.

If Milton grants extradition, Ray has 15 days to appeal to the High Court, and another 14 days to take the case to the House of Lords if his lawyers want to challenge the order on a point of law.

Ray's court-appointed British lawyer refused all comment [illegible]. The lawyer, Michael [illegible], [illegible] was [illegible] to defend him on the passport charge in a London court [illegible] and could request another delay for the extradition hearing, and that would delay the case.

So long as Ray is held here on [illegible] charges Britain police have legal authority to investigate his movements during his three weeks in London prior to his arrest. Scotland Yard is doing that.

Janet [illegible], receptionist at the hotel where Ray stayed, told a newsman that the police [illegible] another [illegible] and other hotel employes [illegible] who checked Ray into the hotel, and other [illegible] Scotland Yard wants to find out if someone accompanied Ray when he arrived at the hotel.

The police investigation, carried out at the request and with the cooperation of the U.S., appears directed at determining whether evidence of a conspiracy to kill King can be turned up in London.

There was some suspicion here that Ray may have had an appointment to meet someone in London--perhaps a contact who never turned up.

Miss [illegible] said Ray had originally been booked to leave the hotel on June 3 but then extended his stay for two more days. When she asked him why, he said: "I am having trouble with my visas."

When he moved across town to a [illegible] hotel with a private telephone number and stayed in his room for four days trying to arrange a flight out of London, [illegible] police apparently were on his trail and closing in.

[illegible] June 13

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]180

TORONTO (AP) — A fat man who earlier was believed involved with James Earl Ray, accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has been cleared by Metropolitan Toronto police.

A spokesman said today the man told police he found an unsealed letter in a telephone booth near a Dundas Street rooming house where Ray stayed. He said he delivered it to Ray.

Earlier this week, Mrs. Sun Loo, the rooming house landlady, told police a tall fat man in a white T-shirt went to her house and asked for Ramon Sneyd, an alias Ray was using while in Toronto. She said she saw the man give Ray a envelope.

The man told police he could not remember to whom the letter was addressed or what it contained. The police spokesman said the man's name would not be disclosed.

Ray, arrested in London Saturday, came here April 8, four days after King's assassination, and left by air May 6. He lived in two different rooming houses while here and used at least two aliases.

The police spokesman said that although city police and Royal Canadian Mounted Police have no definite clues to indicate Ray had help from other persons while in the city, the investigation into his stay here is continuing.

[illegible] June 15

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Date 19 AUG 1976

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
By [illegible] COLLINS
Associated Press Writer
LONDON AP — British charges against James Earl Ray, accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., may be dropped to speed his return to the United States, court sources said Thursday.
The American case to extradite Ray is expected to be heard in court here next week, possibly Tuesday.
The British government set the stage for the hearing when the Home Office authorized Chief Magistrate Frank Milton of the Bow Street Court to study the American case against Ray and begin proceedings.
It was Milton who heard the two British charges against Ray—carrying a forged passport and a loaded gun—at Bow Street Monday. At the time he ordered Ray to appear in court again next Tuesday on these charges.
But the sources said the court may drop the British charges and instead begin hearings on the U.S. extradition petition.
In any case, the sources said, Milton is expected to open the extradition proceedings within a week.
Ray, 40, was arrested Saturday while trying to catch a plane to Brussels. He carried a false Canadian passport in the name of Ramon George S.NEYD, THE NAME HE IS HELD UNDER IN London's Wandsworth Prison with a round-the-clock police guard in the same cell.
The inch-thick extradition petition contains fingerprints and other evide

Ray, 40, was arrested Saturday while trying to catch a plane to Brussels. He carried a false Canadian passport in the name of Ramon George Sneyd, the name he is held under in London's Wandsworth Prison with a round-the-clock police guard in the same cell.
The inch-thick extradition petition contains fingerprints and other evidence to support the American claim that Sneyd is Ray, the man indicted in Tennessee for the April 4 slaying of King.
American and British officials, Ray's court appointed lawyer and Scotland Yard all refused comment on the case.
The possibilities of appeals and other legal moves could delay his extradition by six weeks.
Fred M. Vinson Jr., assistant U.S. attorney general who is heading the American legal team here, was reported planning to return to the United States in the next few days, now that the extradition petition is in the court's hands.
[illegible] June 13

AP 13 Jun 68

By LAWRENCE MALKIN
Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — Lawyers at the British Home Office today were examining the U.S. application to extradite James Earl Ray to ensure it established a case against the 40-year-old escaped convict accused of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The application was sent to the Home Office, the British equivalent of the U.S. Justice Department, after clearing its first legal hurdle in the Foreign Office a few hours after U.S. Consul General Jack Herfurt delivered the bulky petition.

Court formalities and appeals could delay Ray's return up to six weeks or longer if he fights extradition.

The inch-thick petition contains a summary of evidence against Ray in connection with the assassination of King at a Memphis motel April 4. It also contains information on his escape from the Missouri State Prison while serving a sentence for armed robbery, along with fingerprints and other identification material.

The United States is seeking extradition on both charges and must satisfy a British judge that both would be crimes under British law.

The Foreign Office certified that the petition came within the terms of the 1931 extradition treaty between the two countries. The Home Office said that if it finds the petition in order, it should be in the hands of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Frank Milton sometime today. Milton is expected to schedule a hearing about a week after receiving it.

If Milton grants extradition, Ray would have 15 days to appeal to the High Court and if the High Court upheld the extradition order, he would have another 14 days to appeal to the House of Lords, Britain's supreme court.

Michael Dresden, the British lawyer appointed for Ray, has given no indication whether Ray would fight extradition and has refused to comment on the case.

Scotland Yard continued its investigation of Ray's movements in London during the three weeks prior to his arrest last Saturday, and suspicion continued that he had a contact man.

Jane Sassan, a receptionist at one of the hotels where Ray stayed, told newsmen that police are looking for another vacationing receptionist, to ask her whether someone accompanied Ray when he arrived at the hotel.

In Toronto, where Ray went after the killing of King, police continued to look for a fat man who reportedly delivered an envelope to him.

The Toronto Star said in a copyright story that a cab driver reported picking up "a big fat man" May 2 across the street from the rooming house where Ray was staying.

The cab driver, Samuel Reis, 35, said he drove the ma and an unidentified companion to a bank three blocks away, the Star reported.

Earlier this week the landlady of the rooming house said she saw a fa fat man hand an envelope to Ray.

In Memphis, the American Civil Liberties Union urged Dist. Atty. Phil Canale not to seek the death penalty for Ray. The ACLU said "serious constitutional questions" has been raised by the recent Supreme Court decision that the death penalty cannot be handed down in cases where prospective jurors who do not believe in capital punishment are excluded from the panel.

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Date 19 AUG 1976

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Ray 170

LONDON (AP) — James Earl Ray returns to court Tuesday for his first public response on a U.S. demand for his return to stand trial in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The 40-year-old escaped convict has been under round-the-clock guard in Wandsworth Prison since his appearance in Bow Street Magistrates Court last Monday on charges of entering Britain on a forged Canadian passport and carrying an unlicenced loaded pistol.

He made a brief appearance in court a week ago under the name of Ramon George Sneyd—the name on his Canadian passport. In the interim, the U.S. Embassy requested his extradition to face charges of murdering King in Memphis, Tenn., April 4. He is also sought by Missouri State Prison officials to finish a term for armed robbery.

When Ray appears in court, Frank Milton, chief metropolitan magistrate, is expected to refer to the extradition request.

Ray could waive extradition then and there, but this is considered highly unlikely by officials in London. He is more likely to ask for time to consult with his lawyers. The magistrate would then set a tentative date for a full extradition hearing, probably later this week.

[illegible] June 17

A0722[illegible]

AR 17 June 68

A012

[illegible]

[illegible] 350

By LAWRENCE MALKIN

Associated Press Writer

LONDON AP — James Earl Ray today undergoes the first of what could be many court sessions on the U.S. application to extradite him for trial on the charge of murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In advance of Ray's second appearance in the Bow Street Magistrate's Court, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Frank Milton spent the weekend studying the inch-thick file from the U.S. government requesting the extradition of the 40-year-old escaped convict.

Ray was arrested at London Airport June 8 and charged then with entering the country on a forged Canadian passport and carrying an unlicensed loaded gun.

After a preliminary hearing before Milton June 10 on the passport and gun charges, he has been held under round-the-clock guard at Wandsworth Prison while Scotland Yard tried to reconstruct his movements and contacts during the three weeks he is believed to have spent in London before his arrest.

The U.S. Embassy forwarded the request for his extradition to the British government last Wednesday.

Under the 1931 extradition treaty between Britain and the United States, British courts can grant extradition only if U.S. authorities present evidence sufficient to send Ray to trial under British law.

Extradition of Ray was also asked because he is wanted by Missouri to complete a prison term for armed robbery. While extradition on this charge would be almost automatic, the U.S.-British treaty specifies that a suspect can only be tried on the charges for which he has been specifically extradited. Therefore unless he is extradited for the murder of the Negro civil rights leader, he cannot be prosecuted on that charge in the United States.

The British Extradition Act of 1870 also says that no one can be surrendered to another country for ''an offense of a political character'' and there has been speculation that Ray's attorney might argue his client was charged with a political killing. But Denys Holland, professor of English law at London University, said in an interview that he would be surprised if Ray succeeded in any such defense.

''The extradition law may be vague,'' he said, ''but it usually is interpreted according to the temper of the time.''

[illegible] June 18

AP 18 June 68

[illegible]

[illegible] Lead

By LAWRENCE MALKIN

Associated Press Writer

LONDON AP — A British magistrate announced today that he would decide on June 27 whether James Earl Ray should be returned to the United States for trial on a charge of murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The 40-year-old escaped convict was brought before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Frank Milton in Bow Street Magistrate's Court for the first of what could be many court sessions on the U.S. government's application to extradite him.

Milton, after spending the weekend studying the inch-thick file from Washington, said he needed more time to thresh out the complexities of the extradition laws and instructed that Ray be returned to Wandsworth Prison.

Ray was arrested [illegible].

[illegible] June 18

AP 18 Jun 68

A047

[illegible]

[illegible]

LONDON: Ray Lead A044 add: Wandsworth Prison.

Wilton also probably deferred his decision because of the expected arrival Wednesday of two attorneys from Birmingham, Ala., Arthur J. Hanes and his son, Arthur Jr., to act as Ray's counsel.

This hearing today was the customary two-minute session when a court has decided on a postponement.

The small courtroom was filled with about 100 persons, mostly newsmen.

Ray, wearing a blue checked suit and glasses, sat impassively in the dock while attorneys and the magistrate discussed details.

After Wilton fixed the extradition hearing date, Ray spoke only two words: "Thank you."

He was separated from the spectators by a wall of policemen and detectives. Police also lined the corridor through which he reached the courtroom.

Attorneys for the U.S. government told the magistrate that Ray is wanted on a charge of murdering Dr. King in Memphis April 4 and also on a charge of escaping from Missouri State Prison while serving an armed robbery sentence.

Documentary evidence already has been produced in London. The American lawyers told the court a fingerprint expert will be flown over to testify at the extradition hearing.

Ray was arrested [illegible]
[illegible] June 1[illegible]

PGM

Date [illegible]

[illegible]

By [illegible]

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — A British magistrate today scheduled a hearing on June 27 on the U.S. government's application to return James Earl Ray to Tennessee for trial on a charge of murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Roger Frisby, the attorney [illegible] told the Bow Street magistrate's court that the 40-year-old escaped convict would fight extradition. The lawyer asked Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Frank Milton for as much time as possible to prepare his case.

Milton said he wanted to hold the hearing as soon as possible and they compromised on Thursday of next week.

British extradition hearings usually last a day or two, and the magistrate generally gives his decision as soon as he hears all the evidence.

Ray was brought to Bow Street court for the second time since his arrest 10 days ago. The magistrate ordered him returned to Wandsworth Prison.

The attorneys from Birmingham, Ala., Arthur J. Hanes and his son, Arthur Jr., who flew to London yesterday to [illegible] with British [illegible]

[illegible] hearing [illegible] today.

[illegible] June 18

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AP 18 June 68

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LONDON (AP) — Birmingham, Ala., lawyer arrived today to consider defending James Earl Ray, the 40-year-old American who is accused of assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes, 51, was accompanied by his son and partner, Arthur Jr.

Hanes said his first business in London [illegible] he to confer with Ray's British lawyer and then he may interview the accused [illegible] jail.

The U.S. government has requested extradition proceedings against Ray and a hearing is scheduled for June 27.

Hanes can not represent Ray in the British courts, which do not admit foreign counsels, but could advise the British defense lawyer on American aspects of the extradition proceedings.

Hanes earlier said he would interview Ray before deciding whether to undertake his defense against the charge of murdering Dr. King.

[illegible]

AP 20 June 68

[illegible]

[illegible] unlikely [illegible]

[illegible]

June 27 [illegible] any comment on the extradition case [illegible]

[illegible]

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[illegible]

LONDON (AP) — [illegible] King [illegible]

[illegible] lawyers [illegible]

[illegible]

AP 20 Jun 68

A070

W [illegible]

Ray AM 510

By LAWRENCE MALKIN

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — Attorney Arthur J. Hanes Sr., former mayor of Birmingham, Ala., said Thursday he has been retained by James Earl Ray to defend him against the charge of murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

``He sent word to me,'' Hanes told a news conference. ``As of now I will be his lawyer. He retained me in the event that he is extradited.''

Ray is held in the former death cell at London's Wandsworth Prison pending an extradition hearing at Bow Street Magistrates Court next Thursday. A fugitive from the Missouri State Penitentiary, he is accused of gunning down King, the Negro civil rights leader, at Memphis, Tenn., April 4.

Hanes arrived in London Thursday morning with his son and partner, Arthur J. Hanes Jr. He told newsmen, however, he is unlikely to be allowed to see Ray.

Under British law, police are entitled to prevent a prisoner from seeing anyone except his lawyers and only British lawyers are considered here as counsel.

Ray has two court-appointed British lawyers, Michael Dresden and Michael Eugene. They sat flanking Hanes at the news conference, but followed British legal rules by refusing to answer any questions about the case.

Hanes said he will take no part in the extradition proceedings. He will not even be allowed by the British lawyers to see the extradition petition and supporting evidence submitted by the U.S. Embassy.

Dresden and Eugene are being paid under the British legal aid system. Hanes was repeatedly asked who was paying for his trip and who would pay his legal fees for a trial in Memphis.

First he said he ``would not discuss fees and the source of any funds.''

Asked who paid for the trip, he replied: ``No comment.''

Later he said of his fees: ``Somebody will provide, the neighbors, or some way . . . I have faith that I'll get by.''

In Birmingham, Hanes had been quoted as saying he ``understands this man has funds.'' He denied saying this. When asked whether sufficient money was available for a long legal battle, he replied: ``I'll start it off, like the kickoff of a game. If any group were behind it, I'd of course carry it on.''

But he said he was not allied with any group ``right or left.''

``I only belong to the Lions and the PTA,'' he said.

Hanes successfully defended three Klansmen in an Alabama State court three years ago against a charge they murdered Viola Gregg Liuzzo, a Detroit, Mich., civil rights worker slain March 25, 1965, after a Selma-to-Montgomery march. The three were subsequently convicted in a federal court of criminal conspiracy in her case and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

As for the Ray case, he said: ``There are no political overtones to it. I am not interested in any political ideology. I try a case on its merits.''

Hanes was asked whether he had ever met King, who began as a minister in Birmingham. He said he had and added: ``As far as I'm concerned his business was his business, and mine was mine. I don't knock his kick.''

He said he had never seen Ray before and had received his first communication from him June 14. He said he still was not certain whether the man now in custody is Ray and would not know until he talked to him.

``Since I received the letter, I have not been dial,'' he said. ``I and my associates and investigators have not been diel.''

He would not elaborate.

AP
20 June 68

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Ray Bjt Am 420 two takes total 820

By LAWRENCE MALKIN

Associated Press Writer

LONDON AP — James Earl Ray denied Thursday that he killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fighting extradition to the United States to stand trial for the murder of the Negro civil rights leader, Ray professed innocence in Bow Street Magistrates Court.

Ray

The 40-year-old fugitive from the Missouri Penitentiary took the stand in his own defense after the U.S. government unveiled a carefully detailed case against him as "the single hand" in the assassination at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., April 4.

George Jacob Bonebrake, a fingerprint expert of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, testified he found Ray's prints on the rifle, telescopic sight and binoculars that were dropped at the doorway of a shop near the motel shortly after King was slain.

Under questioning by his court-appointed British attorney, Roger Frisby, Ray declared in a soft, reedy drawl he had never met King and that he bore him no grudge.

"Did you kill Martin Luther King?" Frisby asked.

"No, sir," the prisoner replied.

Chief Magistrate Frank Milton, presiding in a gray suit with lots of white cuff showing, later adjourned the hearing until next Tuesday. It is expected to be completed then. Ray went back to prison.

British lawyers retained by the United States told Milton of witnesses to the purchase of the rifle and of a disabled war veteran, Charles Stevens, 46, who said he heard the fatal shot fired from the common bathroom of a rooming house across South Main Street from the Lorraine Motel.

But Ray resisted moves to extradite him to stand trial for King's murder with all the legal ammunition provided by Britain's closed extradition laws.

If the court's decision goes against him, Frisby is expected to appeal to a higher court on the ground that King's assassination was a political crime, for which Britain does not permit extradition.

Frisby electrified the court by summoning Ray to the stand for a six-minute unsworn appearance.

"Call my client," he ordered.

Ray was formally addressed as Ramon George Sneyd, the alias under which he is held here on charges of entering Britain on a forged Canadian passport.

He sat rather than stood in the witness box to make less of a target in any attempt on his life and Scotland Yard detectives clustered around him in a human screen. This was the exchange:

Frisby: Did you know Martin Luther King personally?

Ray: No, sir.

Frisby: Had you ever met him?

Ray: No, sir.

Frisby: Have you any kind of grudge against him?

Ray: No, sir.

Frisby: Did you kill Martin Luther King?

Ray: No, sir.

Asked by the court clerk to sign a summary of this for evidence, Ray turned to his lawyer and said: "How could I sign it?"

It went into the record unsigned. At no point during the hearing did his lawyer admit that the prisoner was Ray.

The U.S. case was presented by David Calcutt, a tall, bald British lawyer. It took him one hour and 1[illegible] minutes to tell

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LONDON Take 2 Ray a019; story 410

The lawyers were dressed in business suits, and so was the magistrate. None wore the traditional British lawyers' wigs because procedure and traditions in this police court are more informal. Ray wore the same dark blue checked sports jacket in which he had appeared briefly in the same court twice before. He wore no tie with his dark blue sports shirt.

This was Calcutt's version of the evidence against Ray, drawn from the documents submitted by the U.S. Embassy:

On March 29 Ray went into the Aero Marine Supply Co. in Birmingham, Ala., and bought a rifle with a telescopic sight from Donald Wood, the son of the owner.

The next day he came back and exchanged it for a Remington 760 rifle, Serial No. 461476, with a telescopic sight numbered A17350.

John DeShazo of Montgomery, Ala., another customer in the store, told FBI agents later that Ray – or a man he tentatively identified as Ray through pictures – had bought a rifle and said he was going hunting in Wisconsin with his brother or brother-in-law.

On April 3, according to a sworn statement by receptionist Henrietta Hagermaster, Ray booked into the new Rebel Motor Hotel in Memphis. Then he went to a Memphis store run by a Mr. York and bought a pair of Bushnell binoculars numbered N403364 with a case and strap, in a yellow and black box, and wrapped in a gray-blue paper bag. He got a receipt for $41.05.

The next affidavit came from Stevens, one of the government's key witnesses. On the day of King's death he was living with his common law wife in apartment 6B of the rooming house on 422½ South Main St., Memphis, which from the rear faced the motel where King was shot.

On that day, he said, he saw the manageress, Bessie Brewer, standing near apartment 5B, just down the hall from his, with an unidentified man. Stevens' apartment was next to the common bathroom, separated from his kitchen by only a thin plywood partition.

Stevens, who spent most of his time in bed, said he heard footsteps on April 4 leading from apartment 5B to the bathroom.

The affidavit continued:

"On the first couple of times, he did not stay long. On the third time the person stayed there what seemed like a long time toward the end of the afternoon between 5 and 6 p.m. I wanted to use the toilet.

"I was in my kitchen working on a small radio when I heard a shot. I could tell that it came from the bathroom because it was very loud.

"Then I heard voices yelling and hollering in the Lorraine Motel. I went out and saw a man running and carrying a bundle about three or four feet long and six or eight inches thick, wrapped in newspaper. Although I didn't get a long look, I think it was the same man I saw earlier with Mrs. Brewer."

0525pcd June 27

AP 27 Jun 68

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[illegible] LONDON RAY 140

MEMPHIS, Tenn. AP - Tennessee officials who will be concerned with the safety of James Earl Ray if he is tried on a charge of killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., conferred Wednesday with officials in Dallas, Tex.

It was in Dallas that Lee Harvey Oswald was shot and killed by Jack Ruby while under arrest in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The Tennessee officials who made the trip to Texas were Sheriff William N. Morris of Shelby County, State Asst. Dist. Atty. Lloyd Rhodes, Charles Holmes, the sheriff's press liaison officer, and Oscar Edmonds, an member of the Shelby County Quarterly Court.

Morris said however the discussions in Dallas involved security for Ray ''only indirectly,'' and that ''no further comment can be made at this time.''

The Tennesseans talked with Dallas Dist. Atty. Henry Wade and Sheriff Bill Decker. Wade and Decker said the conference touched on security arrangements and court procedures.

[illegible] June 27

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LONDON—Ray 3rd Add A018 xxx said Thursday.

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Calcutt continued:

"At 6 o'clock Mr. Stephens says he heard a shot from the bathroom. He came out of his room and saw a man leaving below. He says it was the man who he had seen looking in earlier.

"The defendant left in a hurry, leaving binocular straps in his room. When he got out of the hotel entrance he turned left and dropped his kit of rifle, bullets and binoculars in the doorway.

"He then made off in a car parked nearby."

Calcutt said the Memphis police took possession of the rifle and binoculars. "They say the defendant's fingerprints were on them," he added.

"Second time in with the defendant's fingerprints," Calcutt said. "The bullet which killed Dr. King was examined when recovered and there is a strong likelihood that the bullet came from the rifle found by the police.

"It is also likely that the straps found in his room belonged to the binoculars found with the rifle."

Calcutt said that in September 1960 Ray, or Sneyd, as he still called himself, was convicted of armed robbery.

"He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment," he said, "but on April 23, 1967, he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary with 12 years of his sentence left to serve."

Calcutt then read extracts from written testimony by Frederick Wilkinson, a director of the corrections department of the Missouri penitentiary. He produced photographs and fingerprints and said:

"We say the man in these photos from this records office is the man before you today."

MORE

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[illegible]

LONDON—[illegible] 1049 4th add: today.»

John DeShazo, an Alabamian, declared in a sworn affidavit read out by Calcutt that on March 29 he was in the Birmingham store when he saw a man in a gray business suit handle several weapons and buy a Remington rifle. The man said he was going hunting in Wisconsin with his brother or brother-in-law, DeShazo said.

DeShazo was visited by FBI agents on April 15 and shown pictures of seven white men. He identified one as being the man who bought the rifle, Calcutt said.

Charles Stephens, 46, no fixed address, said in another affidavit read by Calcutt that from March 1967 to June 1968 he lived with his common-law wife in an apartment on South Main Street in Memphis.

On April 4, Stephens said, he saw and heard a man bargaining with the manageress of the apartment building, Mrs. Bessie Brewer, near apartment 5B which was just down the hall from his. He presumed the man was looking for a room.

On April 24, Stephens said he identified an FBI 'wanted' profile as very much like the man he had seen.

His apartment was next to the common bathroom, his statement continued. After seeing the stranger in the hall, Stephens said he heard someone in room 5B and assumed it had been rented by the man.

"I heard footsteps and heard them leave the room and come past my room and into the common bathroom at the end of the hall," Stephens' affidavit went on. "On the first couple of times he did not stay long. On the third time the person stayed there what seemed like a long time toward the end of the afternoon, between 5 and 6 p.m.

"I was in my kitchen working on a small radio when I heard a shot. I could tell that it came from the bathroom because it was very loud.

"I heard through a broken pane in my window a lot of voices yelling and hollering from the building across the road. I saw a lot of people milling around near the motel.

"About a minute after hearing the shot I went to my door and opened it. The bathroom door was open. Then I went to the hall doorway and saw a man running near the end of the hallway.

"He was carrying a bundle in his right hand. It was at least three or four feet long and [illegible]. It was wrapped in what looked like newspaper.

"Although I did not get a good look at him I think it was the same man I saw earlier with Mrs. Brewer."

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AP 27 June 68

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Pro-Photo Advisory:
AP photographers are at the James Earl Ray extradition hearing in London, but prospects are almost nil because English law does not permit pictures within precincts of the court.
The AP
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LONDON—Ray 3jt a082 5th add: Mrs. Brewer.''

Calcutt also read from the statement of an amusement shop owner near 424 South Main Street who said he heard a thud in the doorway and saw a bundle which he said a white man had dropped.
He said he saw a man get into a small car and drive off, but he did not know if it was the same man who dropped the dle.
Part of a rifle barre

He said he saw a man get into a small car and drive off, but he did not know if it was the same man who dropped the bundle. Part of a rifle barrel extended from the bundle, his statement added.
Calcutt said first on the scene was a police patrolman named Zachary, who found in the bundle a pair of binoculars, a rifle with telescopic sight, a leather carrying case, a sack bearing the name York Arms Co., and nine cartridges. There were also some toilet articles.
Calcutt said that an inspector named Jensen found that the rifle contained one empty shell casing.
A written affidavit from an FBI fingerprint expert, George Jacob Bonebrake said he was of the opinion that a rifle, sights and binoculars submitted to him bore Ray's prints.
Detective Sgt. Phillip Birch of Scotland Yard told the court he was on outward passport control at London Airport at 11:30 a.m., June 8.
''When the defendant presented two Canadian passports to the immigration officer, I was sitting by him,'' Birch said.
''As a result of what I had previously learned, I asked the defendant to accompany me to the Special Branch office of the airport in order that he might be questioned by senior police officers.
''After arriving at the office, I made certain inquiries by telephone and, as a result of what I learned, I decided to search the defendant.
''In his right-hand back trouser pocket I found a .38 Liberty Chief Special revolver. It was loaded with five rounds of ammunition.
''The man I knew as Sneyd was detained until the arrival of Detective Chief Supt. Thomas Butler and other officers.''
Butler said he saw the defendant in company with Chief Inspector Morrison of New Scotland Yard. He said to him:
''We are police officers. I understand you have in your possession two passports under the names Sneya and Sneyd. What is your name?''
Ray was said to have replied:
''I cannot understand why I am here. My name is Sneyd.''
Butler went on:
''I have reason to believe that you are a Canadian citizen born

AP 21 Jun 68

A029

RYYRGYY

LONDON RAY A026 add: they are.''

After more conversation, said the superintendent, Ray was cautioned and taken to Cannon Row police station, near Parliament.

Butler said he later saw ~~the~~ defendant again with Chief Inspector Thompson in a ~~cell~~ at Cannon Row. He told him: ''As a result of inquiries made since you were detained, we have very good reason to believe that you are not a Canadian citizen but an American.''

The defendant was said to have replied: ''Oh well, yes I am'' and nodded in agreement.

Butler continued: ''I now believe your name is not Sneyd but James Earl Ray, also known as Eric Starvo Galt and other names, and that you are wanted in the United States for serious & offenses including murder in which a firearm was used.''

Butler told the court this statement had a dramatic effect.

''The accused had been standing up,'' he said. ''But at

Butler continued: ''I now believe your name is not Sneyd but James Earl Ray, also known as Eric Starvo Galt and other names, and that you are wanted in the United States for serious criminal offenses, including murder in which a firearm was used.''

Butler told the court this statement had a dramatic effect.

''The accused had been standing up,'' he said. ''But at this he suddenly slumped down on the seat behind him and he put his head in his hands and said: ''Oh God.''

''After a moment or so he added:

Before the police officers testified about Ray's arrest, Magistrate Frank Milton broke in to say that the defendant would be held in custody until July 2 on the two British charges against him—using a forged passport and carrying a firearm without authorization.

It has been generally understood that these holding charges will probably be dropped altogether if extradition is approved. However, the fact that the magistrate set the date of July 2 seemed to indicate no quick ending to the extradition proceedings.

CS1025aed June 27

AP June 28

[illegible]

A[illegible] URGENT

Ray 1st Lead [illegible]

By [illegible] ANDERSON

Associated Press [illegible] fingerprints were found

LONDON AP — James Earl Ray's [illegible] police [illegible] used to kill Dr.

on the rifle which [illegible] [illegible] lawyer representing

Martin Luther King Jr., [illegible] London's [illegible] magistrate today in

the U.S. government [illegible] extradition [illegible]

hearing for Ray. [illegible] Calcutt told [illegible] fingerprints [illegible]

The lawyer, David Calcutt, [illegible] found on a rifle which police

[illegible] examined with

[illegible] killed [illegible] strong likelihood

[illegible] bullet which killed [illegible] the police,"

recovered," he continued, [illegible] found that King was

that the bullet came from the [illegible] brutal and senseless murder—

Calcutt told the crowded court [illegible]

the victim of [illegible]

murder that was either [illegible]

though [illegible] 4th graf lead.

[illegible] 730ped June 27

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Date 19 AUG 1976

AP 27 Jun 68

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BY GODFREY ANDERSON

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — The United States asked London's chief magistrate today to approve the extradition of James Earl Ray so he can be tried on a charge of murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

David Calcutt, a British attorney appearing for the U.S. government, told Magistrate Frank Milton in the Bow Street court that Dr. King was the victim of ''a calculated, brutal and senseless murder—a murder that was bitter with irony.''

''Although his name was a very byword for peace,'' Calcutt said, ''he met a violent death.

''This tragic death of Dr. King was the working of the single hand of this man,'' he declared, referring to Ray.

MORE

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AP 27 June 68

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LONDON Ray DJt A041 add: to Ray.

The 40-year-old escaped convict was brought into the court today to hear Calcutt outline the U.S. government's case for his extradition.

With two British lawyers to defend him, Ray was expected to fight extradition and appeal to the High Court if Milton ruled that he should be returned to the United States. This could extend the process for weeks.

It was Ray's third court appearance under the alias of Raymond George Sneyd, the name on the Canadian passport he was carrying when he was arrested June 8 at London airport. His two previous trips to Bow Street for preliminary hearings had been brief, and the proceedings today provided the first extensive look at the U.S. government's case against him.

Referring throughout to Ray as Sneyd, Calcutt gave the court this account:

On March 29, six days before King was killed in Memphis, Tenn., Ray went to a store in Birmingham, Ala., kept by a Mr. Wood and bought a rifle with telescopic sights and ammunition. There was another customer in the shop at the time.

The following day Ray was not satisfied and wanted to change the rifle. He took instead a Remington 760 which had telescopic sights attached to it. He also bought and took away a box of ammunition and a box which was not the right box for that particular gun.

''On April 3, Sneyd, Ray, booked in at the New Rebel Motor Hotel at Memphis,'' the lawyer continued. ''On the following day he checked out of the hotel and on that day in Memphis he bought a pair of binoculars.''

Also on that day, Calcutt said, King was in Memphis, staying at the Lorraine Motel.

As Calcutt unfolded the story, four plainclothes detectives sat on a bench facing newsmen and the public gallery.

All members of the public had been searched as they came into court.

Ray sat in front of the prisoner's dock with a detective on either side of him.

MORE
JA632ped June 27

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LONDON Ray DJt A0[illegible] 2nd add of him.

The court was tense as Calcutt continued his story:

''From bathroom window at 422½ South Main Street, a person could see into Dr. King's room.

''At 4 o'clock in the afternoon this defendant went to 422½ South Main Street, where accommodation was available, and he booked a room. As he did this he was seen by a witness, a Mrs. Stevens.

''The defendant got a room and, between then and 6 o'clock in the evening, he used the bathroom and the lavatory. Mr. Stevens, who was in the adjoining room, says that the man used the bathroom and the lavatory on three occasions, each time

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LONDON Ray 2Jt 2nd lead A077 adds 2 grafs

Bonebrake said he found from the print on the rifle 14 characteristics the same as on the prints on file for Ray, a fugitive from the Missouri State Penitentiary. He found 11 similar characteristics from the prints on the telescopic sight.

Cross-examined by Frisby, the court-appointed lawyer defending Ray, Bonebrake said he took an interest in his country's politics although his work did not bring him in contact with them unless they were connected with fingerprints he was examining.

He agreed that King was a nationally known figure. Asked if he believed the Negro leader inspired liking or dislike in America, he replied: "More toward liking, I would think." But he agreed there was a certain amount of dislike too.

Bonebrake said he knew of King's movement, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. But he said that to the best of his recollection, he knew of no commitment to any political party by the conference.

When the court suspended session for a luncheon break, detectives continued to guard all doors of the courthouse. Newsmen had to show credentials to get in or out and members of the public were searched for weapons.

The U.S. government was represented by a British lawyer, David Calcutt. He told Magistrate Frank Milton that Ray's fingerprints were found on the rifle which police recovered after King was shot in Memphis, Tenn., April 4.

"The bullet: 3rd graf lead A066.
[illegible] June 27

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

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URGENT

Ray 3jt 2nd Lead

By GODFREY ANDERSON

Associated Press Writer

LONDON AP - Counsel for James Earl Ray, who is accused of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., indicated today he would seek to save Ray from extradition by contending that the assassination of the American civil rights leader was a political crime.

Under the U.S.-British extradition treaty, political grounds are a principal reason for granting asylum to anyone and barring extradition.

A hearing in historic Bow Street court was held under security precautions unprecedented in British judicial history. It took a dramatic turn after a lawyer representing the U.S. government gave evidence that Ray's fingerprints were found on the rifle suspected of killing King.

Ray was in the murky courtroom under heavy guard and heard a Scotland Yard detective testify that shortly after he was caught he collapsed in his cell moaning: "My God, I feel so trapped."

The extent of King's involvement in American politics was raised by a British lawyer defending Ray.

Attorney Roger Frisby closely questioned an American witness in an effort to get statements about King's political involvement into the court record.

At one point the witness, George Jacob Bonebrake, an FBI fingerprint expert, admitted under questioning that there had been a certain amount of dislike for King in the United States.

More

AP-27 Jun 68

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LONDON Ray 3rd Lead A106 adds him.''

An FBI expert, George Jacob Bonebrake, had testified that Ray's fingerprints were found on a rifle and binoculars discarded in a shop doorway after King was killed at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., April 4.

``I found one print on the rifle and one on the sight and also on the binoculars,'' Bonebrake said. ``I compared them for fingerprints of James Earl Ray in the Los Angeles police file. I found that they belonged to one and the same individual.''

Ray's lawyer indicated he would seek to save Ray from extradition by contending that the assassination of King was a political crime.

Under the U.S.-British extradition treaty, political grounds are a principal reason for granting asylum to anyone and barring extradition.

A hearing 3rd graf 2nd Lead A077

By GODFREY ANDERSON
Associated Press Writer
JT1157aed June 27

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

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lyl
London Ray 3rd Lead A107 addn extradition.
Ray was ringed by detectives but did not wear handcuffs as he mounted the witness stand.

The hearing in Bow Street Magistrates Court was suspended for 10 minutes while he conferred with his British attorney, Roger Frisby.

Frisby said he would rather Ray neither took the usual oath nor affirmed, meaning taking the oath without invoking God.

"This tactic meant that, under English legal procedure, Ray could not be cross-examined by David Calcutt, the British attorney representing the U.S. government.

Wearing a dark suit and heavy horn-rimmed glasses, Ray answered a series of questions from his lawyer. He agreed that he was the man arrested at London Airport June 8.

He said he had never met Dr. King and bore him no grudge.

"Did you kill Dr. King?"

"No sir," Ray replied.

Again on his counsel's advice, Ray said he did not wish to sign the court recording of his testimony.

The Bow Street Magistrates Court adjourned then until next Tuesday, when the hearing is expected to end.

Ray was sent back to prison.

Silent through presentation of the prosecution's case, Ray declared at the windup of that phase of the hearing that "parts of some of the testimony are false and some are exaggerated."

"I would like to disagree with them and say something about this," he said.

Chief Magistrate Frank Milton had advised him about his right to call witnesses and give testimony in his own behalf.

When the court resumed Frisby said Ray disagreed with many of the facts given by Detective Chief Supt. Thomas Butler of Scotland Yard.

In a dramatic high point of the hearing, Butler had testified that, on hearing in his prison cell that the police identified him as an American wanted for a killing rather than as Canadian George Sneyd, his alias, Ray slumped into a seat and said: "Oh God . . . I feel so trapped."

Frisby said Ray wished in particular "to state most emphatically that he did not make the observation 'I feel so trapped.'

"Nor did he say 'Oh God,' nor did he collapse on the seat in the manner which the chief superintendent described," Frisby said.

In court maneuvering, Frisby raised the matter of King's involvement in American politics. He questioned Bonebrake closely about this in an effort to get statements about such political involvement in the record.

The FBI agent admitted under questioning that there had been a certain amount of dislike for King in the United States.

Peter Hopkirk, a correspondent of the London Times, appeared for the defense on a subpoena.

Hopkirk said he was in the United States in April covering the presidential primaries. He went to Memphis the morning after King was killed and spent four or five days there inquiring into his death.

"It was no secret that he was disliked by many white people living in the States," Hopkirk said.

Bonebrake said 4th graf 2nd Lead A077-0?0.
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AP

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Ray Sidebar 490

By LYNN HEINZERLING

Associated Press Writer

LONDON AP — ''Oh God—I feel so trapped.''

These words, quoted by Detective Chief Supt. Thomas Butler of Scotland Yard in a deceptively calm voice, were the dramatic high point of James Earl Ray's extradition hearing in Bow Street Magistrates Court today.

There was a murmur among spectators packed at the back of the court. A dozen plain-clothes policemen stationed in the court jerked to attention. Ray's left hand drifted to the back of his head and patted his dark hair.

The grave-looking detective was explaining to Chief Magistrate Frank Milton how the man accused of assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in Memphis, Tenn., April 4 reacted when he was told soon after his arrest here June 8 that he was suspected.

Butler said he spoke to Ray in his prison cell soon after his arrest. He said he told him: ''I now believe your name is not George Sneyd, but James Earl Ray, that you are also known as Eric Starvo Galt and by other names and that you are wanted at present in the United States for serious criminal offence including murder in which a firearm was used.''

Butler testified the prisoner, who had been standing, ''suddenly slumped down on the seat behind him and he put his head in his hands and said: 'Oh God.'

''After a moment or so, he added: 'I feel so trapped.' ''

Butler said he cautioned Ray that any statement he made could be used as evidence in subsequent court proceedings.

Ray replied, he said: ''Well, yes. I should not say anything more now. I cannot think right.''

Ray wore heavy horn-rimmed glasses in court. He was not handcuffed and he occasionally folded his arms.

After the scene in his prison cell was recalled to him by Butler his hands became more active, tapping the desk in front of him and pulling his rather prominent ears.

The Bow Street Court, adjoining the Bow Street police station, has four magistrates. Normally, the flow of humanity through the four court rooms in the building consists largely of what a chief magistrate once described as ''melancholy procession of drunks'' and many prostitutes.

The court corresponds to an American police court and its jurisdiction includes the Houses of Parliament, Whitehall, Buckingham Palace, Piccadilly Circus and part of Mayfair.

However, there are some matters in which the chief magistrate at Bow Street has exclusive jurisdiction throughout Britain. One of these is extradition. Others are deportation and the issuance of licenses to take children abroad for adoption.

That is why James Earl Ray is having his future decided there.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Date 10 AUG 1976

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LONDON Ray Sidebar 1092 adds there.

In Magistrates Court, neither the magistrate nor the attorneys wear wigs and gowns as they do in higher British courts.

Chief Magistrate Milton, a soft-spoken man with thin white hair and glasses, wore a gray suit with lots of white cuff showing. He spoke little. When the gun taken from Ray at the time of his arrest was passed up to him he did not bother to touch it.

The courtroom is paneled in oak and lit by 10 electric lights in round white globes hanging from the ceiling. There is a skylight, but it is begrimed and apparently impervious to sunshine if there is any.

Bow Street is nearly 300 years old. It got its name because it is supposed to be shaped like a bent bow.

The first police court was established there in 1749. Henry Fielding, the novelist who wrote "Tom Jones," was its first paid magistrate.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date ~~19 AUG 1976~~

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LONDON: Ray [illegible] add London [illegible]

There was no reaction from spectators in the crowded courtroom.

The magistrate, sitting at his bench stacked with law books, addressed Ray directly and told him: "You will be committed to prison to await extradition to the United States."

He then granted him legal aid for his appeal.

As Milton delivered his decision, he glanced at notes and occasionally referred to one of the law volumes.

He dealt at some length with the contention of defense attorney Roger Frisby that Ray should not be extradited because the slaying of the civil rights leader, shot in Memphis, Tenn., April 4, was a political offense.

The judge agreed it was common knowledge that King was a controversial figure in the United States, but he refused to accept the defense contention that this alone would make the crime of his assassination a political one.

"To hold so would be to extend the meaning of this case too far," the magistrate said.

The case turned on whether the crime was political or not. Under treaty between Britain and the United States, persons may not be extradited for political reasons.

The U.S. government denied Ray's contention that the killing of King was a political crime.

"There is not a shred of evidence to show that the murder took place to further the ends of a group enterprise," David Calcutt, a British lawyer representing the U.S. government, told the magistrate.

He declared: "There was no conspiracy, no other man or other body was involved.

"There may have been suggestions that this might be so, but the evidence before this court points to a lone assassination for private purposes."

The argument that there was no conspiracy seemed intended to apply only to the first-degree murder warrant issued by the state of Tennessee for the shooting in Memphis April 4.

When Ray was put on the FBI's most wanted list April 20, he was wanted also on a federal charge of conspiracy to deny King his civil rights.

The prisoner has denied he killed King or even knew him.

Frisby told the court that whoever did the shooting did not do it on personal grounds but because he disapproved of the type of activity King was conducting.

Shortly after [illegible]

[illegible]

LONDON Ray 3rd Lead A063 add: conducting.

Shortly after the court adjourned for lunch, Ray returned to make an unexpected statement.

Sandwiched between two policemen, he told the magistrate: "I don't want to repeat myself. I woul like to take the opportunity to object to Mr. Butler's testimony."

Detective Chief Supt. Thomas Butler of Scotland Yard had testified last week that, when accused, Ray collapsed on a seat in his cell crying: "Oh God. I feel so trapped."

Ray quickly denied he ever said it and he made a further denial today "especially in view of the fact that this case will probably be given wide publicity in the United States, especially in the so-called liberal press."

"I would urge this court to take in the totality of the circumstances," Ray said. "One, that I did not sign any kind of statement whatsoever, and also the fact that I said I did not want to have conversation with anybody connected with the United States Justice Department.

"One other thing I object to. I'm sure it is not connected with the case. I believe there is a connection between this hearing and the trial in the States. Shortly after I was arrested by the British authorities, I engaged an attorney in the United States—Mr. Arthur Hanes of Birmingham Ala.

"He subsequently made a trip to consult with me. This was opposed by the Home Secretary James Callaghan, and I made an application to the Home Secretary and I received no answer.

"I then wrote to Mr. Edward Heath, Conservative opposition leader, and I was informed by the governor of Wandsworth Prison that this was not permissible and that he would forward the letter to Mr. Callaghan. Evidently the Home Secretary would decide whether Mr. Heath would be permitted to read the letter.

"I think that, in view of the seriousness of this case, I should have had a little more freedom to write and visit people in the circumstances. That is all I have to say and I would like to thank the court."

Ray was then taken back to the cells adjoining the court.

Frisby, 2nd graf A063

8:04aed July 2

a102

Ray Ext Lo 430 2 takes total 350

By LAWRENCE MALKIN

Associated Press Writer

LONDON AP — A British judge approved Tuesday the U.S. government's request for extradition of James Earl Ray to stand trial for the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ray's lawyers announced they will appeal the decision to Britain's High Court.

A 40-year-old fugitive from the Missouri State Penitentiary, Ray nodded unemotionally on learning he had lost his fight to convince Chief Magistrate Frank Milton that he should not be returned to the United States.

"Yes sir," he told the magistrate.

Then guards escorted him back to his maximum security cell at Wandsworth Prison to await the appeal, which must be filed within 15 days.

In Washington Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said he hoped Ray could be returned to the United States without undue delay so the prisoner could have his "right to a speedy trial."

Milton said "there can be no doubt" that there is a prima facie case against Ray in the murder of the American civil rights leader, felled by a rifle bullet at the Lorraine Motel Memphis, Tenn., April 4.

The prime evidence submitted in the Bow Street Magistrate's Court was testimony of an FBI fingerprint expert, George Jacob Bonebrake, at a hearing last week that Ray's prints were found on a rifle, telescopic sight and binoculars that Memphis authorities consider were used by the killer.

Conviction on a murder charge in a Tennessee court could mean a sentence to death by electrocution.

Peering through half-spectacles over lawbooks piled on his judicial bench, Milton ruled on several major points.

He discussed and then dismissed a contention of Ray's court-appointed British attorney, Roger Frisby, that the slaying was a political crime, a crime for which a person cannot be returned under the U.S.-British extradition treaty.

"To hold so would be to extend the meaning of this case too far," the magistrate said, though he agreed that King, who headed the politically active Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was a controversial figure.

The U.S. government had denied through its British lawyer, David Calcutt, that the killing was a political crime.

"There is not a shred of evidence to show that the murder took place to further the ends of a larger enterprise," Calcutt said. ". . . There was no conspiracy. No other man or other body was involved.

"There may have been undertones that this might be so, but the evidence before this court points to a lone assassination for private purpose."

In denying there was a conspiracy, Calcutt was walking a legal tightrope. Though the extradition case was based on a Tennessee murder warrant, Ray also faces in the United States a federal charge of conspiracy to deny King his civil rights.

MORE

[illegible] July 2

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Date 19 JUL 1976

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URGENT
Ray Lead A056 230
By GODFREY ANDERSON
Associated Press Writer
LONDON AP - Alabama lawyer Arthur J. Hanes spent about
an hour today in Wandsworth Prison, conferring with James
Earl Ray, the man wanted in Tennessee to stand trial for the
slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
When he came out of the jail gate, Hanes said: ``He is
feeling all right. His health is good. He is being well
looked after. His mental attitude is good. We talked of many
things.''
Hanes, who said on arrival at London Airport earlier today
that Ray might plead innocent through reason of insanity, was
asked by a reporter if Ray showed any sign of insanity.
``None,'' he replied and emphasized that the plea of insanity
was only one of a number which might be used.
Hanes, former mayor of Birmingham, still insisted on calling
by the name under which he was arrested in Britain—Ramon
George Sneyd—although the British court has accepted FBI
testimony that he is Ray.
``This man to me is still R.G. Sneyd,'' Hanes said.
In the eyes of the British government, Hanes was only a
private party and not a legal adviser in an official capacity.
Home Secretary James Callaghan, referring to Hanes,
said he ``did not qualify for the special conditions applicabl
to legal advisers under the statutory prison rules.''
Hanes had been in London in late June, but did not see
Ray then, although he reportedly asked permission of British
authorities. Callaghan said Ray had asked to receive a visitor
June 24 and was given the go-ahead June 25 on the condition
that he be an ``ordinary visitor.''
Before entering the prison, Hanes reportedly stressed Ray's
identity as Sneyd. He said: ``He is Ramon George Sneyd
as far as I am concerned. This man has identified himself as
such. I am saying that the U.S. government and the authoritie
of Tennessee have the burden to prove otherwise.''
``it will; 8th graf
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 19 AUG 1976

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LONDON -- Ray Lead A006 add [illegible]

Before driving back to his hotel, Hanes said he would have another meeting with Ray Saturday morning. He was accompanied on the jail visit by Michael Eugene, one of the court-appointed British attorneys aiding in Ray's defense.

By decision of a British court last Tuesday, Ray can be extradited as a fugitive criminal wanted for murder and armed robbery, but his defense lawyers have 15 days to lodge an appeal in a higher court which would further delay him being handed over to the American authorities.

[illegible] A030

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Day ML 250
By LAWRENCE MALKIN

LONDON AP — The next round in the legal battle to extradite the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to the United States for trial has been set for Britain's High Court on July 29.

The British lawyer for James Earl Ray, the fugitive convict accused of King's murder, announced the date in Magistrates Court Tuesday while Ray was making a routine, one-minute appearance on British charges against him.

Magistrate Frank Milton asked Defense Attorney Michael Eugene whether the date for Ray's appeal had been set. Told it had been, he ordered Ray back to Wandsworth Prison for another week.

Ray is to appear again next Tuesday for a similar hearing and probably will be returned to prison on British charges of entering the country on a forged Canadian passport and carrying an unlicensed gun.

These have in effect developed into holding charges, and the police are expected to drop them if Ray is extradited.

Milton ordered the extradition on July 2 but Ray's lawyers there announced they would appeal on the grounds that King's assassination was a political crime and therefore extradition was barred under British law.

The High Court hearing is expected to last about two days and will be largely a rehearing of the arguments presented to Magistrate Milton. But the lawyers probably will concentrate more on the legal technicalities of the case. If as expected the decision goes against Ray, he can still appeal to the House of Lords—but only if the appeal court or the Lords decide he has a point of law on which to base an appeal.

If the Lords—Britain's highest court—refuse to hear a further appeal, Ray probably would be sent back to the United States around the beginning of August.

EP603ped July 9

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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LONDON (AP) — James Earl Ray's appeal against extradition to the United States will open in the British High Court July 29, his British lawyer said today. The hearing is expected to last at least two days.

Ray, charged with assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., made a two-minute appearance in Bow Street Magistrate's Court today on the two charges on which he was arrested June 8 at London airport: using a forged passport and carrying an unlicensed gun.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Frank Milton ordered him held in Wandsworth Prison for another seven days on the two charges. Ray said nothing.

Milton, who last Tuesday ruled in favor of the U.S. government's extradition petition, asked defense attorney Michael Eugene when the appeal would be heard.

Eugene replied that the High Court had agreed to start the appeal hearing July 29 although the appeal itself has not been filed formally.

Ray's lawyers are preparing an appeal contending that King's assassination was a political crime, an offense that is not extraditable under British law. The appeal petition is not expected to be filed until the end of a 15-day grace period dated from July 2.

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LONDON Take 2 ray [illegible]

Nevertheless, he said a decision not to permit him on the plane would violate constitutional rights and be "high-handed, wrong and prejudicial."

Hanes also complained about reports that Fred Vinson Jr., U.S. assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's criminal division, had spoken to Ray shortly after his arrest here June 8. He said Vinson had "transgressed the rights of my client," although when reminded by newsmen that Vinson had denied speaking to Ray he said he would not make a major issue of this.

A few legal loose ends remain to be tied up before Ray can be handed over to U.S. authorities. First the British must adjourn or drop the charges of passport forgery and carrying an unlicensed gun under which Ray has been held.

A hearing is scheduled at Bow Street Magistrates Court Thursday. Although Ray does not necessarily have to be present, British lawyers said it would be legally risky to spirit him out of the country until the hearing is finished in case either defense, prosecution or the magistrate wanted to question him in court.

Once this is wound up, Home Secretary James Callaghan can sign the extradition warrant on the order made July 2 by Chief Magistrate Frank Milton, who also will preside at Thursday's hearing.

[illegible]PED July 17

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Date 19 AUG 1976

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Ray-Extradition

URGENT

Ray Lead Day

By COLIN [illegible]

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — Home Secretary James Callaghan signed an order Thursday night for transfer of James Earl Ray to the custody of U.S. marshals for his extradition to the United States. Minor British charges against the 40-year-old fugitive from the Missouri State Penitentiary were dropped, bringing a step closer his return to face trial on a charge of murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The extradition [illegible]

[illegible] July [illegible]

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Date 19 AUG 1976

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Ray Bjt 2 takes, 550 Total

By COLIN FROST

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — A final British court hearing for James Earl Ray is scheduled in London to clear the way for his return to the United States to face trial on a charge of murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The brief hearing at the Bow Street Magistrate's Court is a formality to dispose of the two minor charges on which Ray had been held since his arrest at London Airport June 8: using a forged Canadian passport and carrying a loaded pistol without a permit.

The British charges could be dropped or shelved indefinitely.

After the hearing today, Home Secretary James Callaghan is expected to sign the order for Ray's extradition issued by Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Frank Milton on July 2.

Ray decided on Tuesday not to appeal extradition, and the 15-day period for filing of an appeal expired Wednesday.

The time of Ray's departure is a closely guarded secret. Unofficial reports said a U.S. Air Force transport was standing by at Northolt, a U.S. air base west of London, to take Ray and an escort of U.S. marshals to Memphis, Tenn., where the Negro civil rights leader was shot April 4.

Ray's American attorney, Arthur J. Hanes, arrived in London Wednesday and complained that the U.S. Justice Department had refused to let him accompany Ray back to the United States. Hanes, a former mayor of Birmingham, Ala., said his client was afraid to be alone with Justice Department men.

"I don't know the basis of the fear," said the lawyer, "but he says it and he wants me to be present.

"I applied some weeks ago to go back on the plane with him and that he should not be questioned or interrogated by FBI men without my being present.

"This was refused. It is a violation of my client's constitutional rights.

"I shall apply again for permission to fly back with him. Even if I am not allowed on the plane, I want to be allowed to spend a few hours with my client before he will be immediately put up in court in Memphis."

Hanes spent 45 minutes with Ray inside London's Wandsworth Jail Wednesday. But the lawyer said that in this conversation, as in others he had during a previous visit to London, it was impossible to get to the heart of things because British prison officers always were within hearing.

Hanes said Ray waived appeal on the advice of Hanes "because he is innocent and wants to get back to the States as quickly as possible to prove it."

Hanes charged that Ray is the target of an "unprecedented, vicious and libelous press and television campaign to portray him as a convicted murderer, a monster, a degenerate and a dope addict."

Asserting that no one is guilty until proved guilty, the lawyer said, "once my client is in Memphis, where he can confer daily with me and others, we will find the whole truth and establish i

MORE

BJ419aed July 18

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Date 19 AUG 1976

A203
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An AP News Special
Ray’s Getaway Bjt, 400, 2 takes, 850 total
With Wirephoto
By BERNARD GAVZER
Associated Press Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. AP - There was no all-points bulletin issued to stop James Earl Ray the night he shot and killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and fled Memphis in a white 1966 Mustang.

Police Chief Henry Lux, who for months had the impression that an automatic alarm had been broadcast, confirmed in an exclusive interview that no such bulletin was issued.

The widespread belief among law enforcement officers-and consequently the public-that a bulletin had been issued and that Ray had apparently escaped with ease in spite of it contributed to the suspicion that he might have been part of a conspiracy rather than a lone killer.

The judge in Ray’s trial said in an interview afterward he was mystified over how Ray eluded the roadblocks that would have been established following an all-points alert. A hearing on Ray’s motion for a new trial is scheduled for May 26.

Since there was no bulletin, there were no roadblocks or checkpoints established at the nearest escape routes to neighboring Arkansas and Mississippi-or in Georgia, Alabama, Missouri, Louisiana, South Carolina, Virginia or Kentucky. Or anywhere.

‘‘The first Memphis police radio transmission mentioning a white Mustang was logged at 6:11 p.m., April 4, 1968,’’ said a Shelby County authority with intimate knowledge of the state’s evidence.

King was shot at 6:01 p.m. Ray apparently was on the street and on his way within minutes. Had he begun his flight in the Mustang as late as 6:05 p.m., by 6:11 he would have been on the Memphis-Arkansas Bridge leading to Arkansas or no more than 10 minutes away from the Mississippi state line.

Chief Lux, in explaining the failure to issue an all-points bulletin, said: ‘‘At this time, we did not know for sure or have ny proof that a white Mustang was involved. We had broadcast that the suspect was believed to be in a white Mustang. This wasn’t enough to put out an all-points. To do that, you usually have to indicate that a warrant has been issued and that you will extradite. Otherwise, the receiving states are not going to act on it.’’

Another explanation, given by Memphis police as well as police officials in other areas, was that the local situation was hectic and tense and that authorities were concerned about rioting and disorder.

In his trial before the late Judge W. Preston Battle, Ray drew a 99-year sentence March 10 under an agreement to plead guilty. Ray later repudiated the agreement and, following Judge Battle’s death, was granted a hearing on his motion for a new trial.

During a series of exclusive interviews just before he died of a heart attack, Judge Battle said there were questions about the Ray case which troubled him, the chief one being Ray’s flight.

MORE
p115ped may 13 1969

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Memphis, Take 2, Ray's Getaway, A203: flight. 450

He said: ‘‘To me, the escape seems miraculous. I don’t see how
he got from here to Atlanta in that white Mustang with an all-
points bulletin out.’’ Ray’s abandoned Mustang was
confiscated by the FBI in Atlanta April 11, 1968.

Investigation into this question showed that even a year after
the slaying there were authorities in some neighboring states who
still had the impression that there had been such a bulletin.

A spokesman for the Virginia State Police said:
‘‘We passed on an all-points bulletin.’’ Georgia informants
said they couldn’t remember a specific message but ‘‘somehow we
knew there was a Mustang.’’ South Carolina sources said the
details were now blurred but ‘‘we definitely remember an all-
points bulletin.’’

But in none of these states, or any others, were there any
unusual or nonroutine patrol actions, such as the setting up of
roadblocks.

Chief Lux at first seemed certain an alarm had been
broadcast to neighboring states. He explained:
‘‘We have a direct telephone line to the Shelby County
sheriff’s office. It’s automatic procedure to call the sheriff’s
office.’’

The sheriff’s office has two-way radio communication with
the Tennessee Highway Patrol and state police in Arkansas
and Mississippi. That’s how, according to Chief Lux, the
adjoining states were alerted.

But Sheriff William N. Morris, questioned about his role
the night of April 4, said:
‘‘I never received any communication that night regarding a
white Mustang or any request to transmit an alert to any
other police agency.’’

The Tennessee Highway Patrol reported that it logged a
statewide broadcast at 6:3? P.M., TO BE ‘‘on the alert for a
late model Mustang, driven by a white male, with dark hair, neatly
dressed, in connection with the slaying of Martin Luther King.’’
But no roadblocks were established nor did the patrol issue
an all-points to other areas.

‘‘The reason we did not put out an automatic all-points is
that the Memphis Police Department did not request it,’’
said a highway patrol spokesman.

How was the Tennessee Highway Patrol informed?

So far as can be reconstructed, the information was supplied
by Claude Armour, who was then Gov. Buford Ellington’s
special assistant for law enforcement. Armour once served as
commissioner of police in Memphis.

Armour recalled he was informed by Fire and Police Director
Frank C. Holloman, although he is not certain, and that
he in turn notified Ellington. The Memphis police log indicates
that at 6:26 p.m., there was a message, ‘‘Car 100, contact Gov.
Ellington by phone.’’ Car 100 is Holloman’s.

Armour did contact the governor. ‘‘I recommended that he
immediately alert the National Guard for dispatch to Memphis
in case of disorders. I also recommended that the State Highway
Patrol be alerted for the same assignment.’’

Armour assumed a blockade would be established.
‘‘There is a blockade system that has all been planned out
and goes into effect on a single signal,’’ he said.

When Police Chief Lux was apprised of some of this
information, he checked records, then said:
‘‘You are correct. There was not an all-points bulletin put
out on the white Mustang.’’

MD154ped May 13

51

News Special, 500, 2 takes, total 1,000

By BERNARD GAVZER

AP Newsfeatures Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. AP — The prime suspect in a hoax radio broadcast that misled police the night Martin Luther King Jr. was murdered denies he made the broadcast.

"I never did it," he said in an exclusive interview. "I can prove it."

If he can, authorities will have another riddle to untangle before they can say beyond a reasonable doubt that the broadcast was a hoax and that killer James Earl Ray was in no way connected with it.

Ray is serving 99 years. His motion for a new trial will be heard May 26. So far as is known, he has never made any comment about the broadcast.

The spurious call—giving a frantic description of a white Mustang making a high-speed getaway—began about 35 minutes after Dr. King was shot April 4, 1968. It occupied the attention of at least three police squads, turning them toward an area five to six miles east of the shortest, quickest route out of Memphis—the route Ray actually took in a 1966 white Mustang.

The suspect now is a college freshman at a school far from his Memphis home. He has been questioned by Memphis police and the FBI. But the Federal Communications Commission—to the surprise of at least one FCC commissioner—never has made any inquiry.

No charges have been placed against the student.

Confronted in the dormitory of his school, he at first refused to discuss police interest in him. He agreed only after an exchange of several long distance telephone calls to his family and a lawyer. He agreed to talk with the understanding he would not be identified.

"I'm very upset about this," he said, nervously shifting about as he spoke. "I don't like the FBI or anybody else thinking I had anything to do with this. I don't like your coming after me."

"Why have police concentrated on you?" he was asked.

"I don't know why. There are other ham radio operators in my area. I don't know why they came to me. I haven't been able to put this out of my mind for a year," he said.

Authorities were able to get a clue as to the probable location of the transmitter because of details provided by two main sources: a 25-year-old steamfitter who was receiving the broadcast in his red Malibu convertible and a TV repairman who is a ham operator.

There is some conflict in their reports. The steamfitter, in his version, said:

"I had my two-way citizen's band radio on. This is a short distance, low power radio communication. I was monitoring Channel 15. I'm sure I was receiving from a mobile unit because of the way the strength of the signal changed."

The TV man, whose sobriquet on the air is "Lily White," said the messages came from a fixed base station, and added:

"I monitored that from the beginning to the sign off. There is more to it but I won't tell the full story until the U.S. Supreme Court has James Earl Ray firmly under lock and key. There is something unknown, and I'm worried about the unknown." He refused to say anymore.

Although the student is frightened and worried, he apparently knows radio communication and the problem of anyone now trying to prove when the fake broadcast began. Location of a transmitter can be determined when there is a signal on which two receivers can make a fix. But the false broadcast lasted only 12 minutes and no opportunity existed at the time to make such a fix, nor was there any need to since no one had any reason to doubt it was valid.

"I was at home that night," the student said. "I was never at my rig, which is down in the basement.

MORE

1122aed May 14 1969

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MEMPHIS—Take 2, Ray Bjt, A012: basement.

“I was working on a term paper about 6:30 p.m., give or take 10 minutes, a friend called and said King was shot and all hell would break loose. I agreed. I went back to my term paper. I never got on the air at all.”

The student's home is located in the general area described as the scene of the high-speed chase.

He said he knows two respected, substantial citizens of Memphis who could testify it wasn't his voice.

“These two men heard it all, from beginning to end, and they know my rig and my voice. They could testify it wasn't me. I have never given their names to anyone, not the Memphis police or the FBI.”

The Associated Press has a slight clue as to their identity but has been unable to locate the men.

The misleading broadcast began at 6:55 p.m.—about the time the student said he took a break from his studies. This was a crucial time during which King's killer made good his escape. The easiest way out of the state was to head for Interstate 55 and either go across the Memphis-Arkansas Bridge to Arkansas or go south into Mississippi, trips requiring from 10 to 19 minutes. Ray, it is now known, went to Mississippi.

The false broadcast was picked up by the steamfitter, who asked that his name not be published. He has been questioned by police and the FBI.

“I was eastbound on Jackson Ave. in my convertible. The top was down. I was alone. It had been about 15 minutes since the radio report that gKing was shot, and about three or four minutes later there was the report on commercial radio that the suspect might be in a white Mustang.

“THEN, ON MY CITIZEN'S BAND UNIT, I heard someone saying, ‘Can someone give me a land line to the police department?’ That's our jargon for a telephone call.

“A base station answered and said he'd be glad to put in a call for the police, what was the message.

“The answer was, ‘I am chasing the white Mustang with the man in it that shot King.’ Then there was some interference and the base station asked for a repeat and got one three or four times but couldn't read it. I could. I have fine copy all the way.”

The steamfitter then saw a police car stopped at a traffic light.

“I pulled up alongside and hollered, ‘I have a man on the radio who says he's chasing the white Mustang with the man who shot King.’ The cop looked at me funny and the patrolman who was riding shotgun got out and got in with me. We pulled into a parking lot and I turned up the volume so that the other officer could hear it.”

The officer, Lt. R. W. Bradshaw, in police car 160, relayed the information coming over the citizen's band radio to the police dispatcher. The dispatcher, in turn, broadcast it over the police network. A recording of this exists. But there is no known recording of the voice of the person making the original broadcast.

At least two police cars, 36 and 42, were put into action in a hunt for the phantom Mustang. At one point, the mysterious broadcast also described gunfire coming from a blue Pontiac whtse occupants reportedly were firing at the Mustang. But no one, that night or since, has come forth with any evidence of any real vehicles being at those places. It was a sham, all the way.

The FCC, asked to explain its failure to investigate the alleged hoax, agreed that such a hoax would be a violation but said that in this instance it was decided that the incident already was being investigated by the FBI and local police and there was no necessity for it to become involved. However, one commissioner said while he would not initiate an inquiry he certainly would support a call for one.

ff24aed May 14

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Ray

MEMPHIS AP -- A hearing may be held Monday to review the recent denial of a new trial for James Earl Ray in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Richard J. Ryan of Memphis, a member of Ray's new team of attorneys said even if no hearing were held, he believes Criminal Court Judge Arthur Faquin Jr. will at least issue a ruling on Ryan's request for a review.

Ray, who entered a guilty plea March 10 to the slaying of King, was refused a new trial May 26 by Faquin. The judge ruled the admitted slayer is not entitled to a new\trial since he voluntarily entered the guilty plea to King's death.

The attorney's move Friday to bring the Faquin decision up for review could take the case to the western division of the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals.

If Faquin denies the request, Ryan said he plans to ask the appellate court to accept a direct appeal. If the appellate court knocks down the appeal, Ryan said, other legal routes are open.

Ray currently is serving his 99-year sentence in the state prison in Nashville.

z444aed June 14, 1969

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19 AUG 1976
Date

A038
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Ray Rjl Lead A038 200
By GENE ERNST
Associated Press Writer

LONDON AP — American authorities pursued top secret plans today for a quick return to the United States of James Earl Ray to face trial for the assassination in Memphis, Tenn., of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ray may be on his way tonight or early Thursday.

"I suspect the first word that Ray has left London will be news of his actual arrival in Memphis," one source said.

Ray cleared the way for his return by signing a declaration Tuesday that he did not want to appeal the order for his extradition issued July 2 by London's chief magistrate, Frank Milton.

The 40-year-old prisoner, a fugitive from the Missouri State Penitentiary who denies he killed King, spent his remaining hours in London's Wandsworth Prison under heavy guard.

Ray's American lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., flew into London to have a talk with him at the prison. Hanes was believed hoping to accompany his client back to the United States, but U.S. officials indicated such a request would be turned down.

Informed sources speculated that Ray would be flown back with a heavy guard aboard a U.S. military plane or a chartered civilian jet. U.S. military planes can use British civilian fields such as Heathrow and Gatwick airports near London.

It was not 3rd graf A038

Ray delete 5th and 6th grafs starting "Informed..." to conform.
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
19 AUG 1976

Date

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Ray [illegible] 300
By COLIN FROST
Associated Press Writer

LONDON AP — James Earl Ray may be on his way back to the United States tonight or early Thursday to face trial for the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray cleared the way for his return by signing a declaration Tuesday that he did not want to appeal the order for his extradition issued by London's chief magistrate on July 2.

It was not known whether Ray's lawyers would deliver his statement to the Home Office or whether they would let the 15-day period for him to file an appeal expire this afternoon without taking further action.

In either case, Home Secretary James Callaghan could sign the order for Ray's extradition before nightfall. He would then be delivered to the U.S. Justice Department for the transatlantic flight.

Informed sources said the journey would be made aboard a U.S. government plane or a chartered civil jet, with Ray under heavy guard.

Ray's American lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., was due in London this morning. He may ask to accompany his client back to the United States, but U.S. officials indicated this request would be turned down.

Ray's decision not to appeal the extradition order came as a surprise after a routine court hearing Tuesday at which he sat quietly while his British lawyers agreed to have him held in prison another eight days on charges he entered Britain on a forged Canadian passport and carried an unlicensed gun.

These were the charges on which he was arrested June 8 at London Airport, ending a two-month, worldwide search following the slaying of the civil rights leader April 4 in Memphis, Tenn.

Ray's British lawyers had bee preparing an appeal based on the contention that King's slaying was a political crime and that Ray therefore could not be extradited under British law. A hearing on the appeal had been tentatively set for June 29 even though it had not yet been filed.

In his declaration saying he would submit to extradition, Ray wrote: ''I have made this decision after considering all the facts, and I believe that this is the best course of action for me to adopt.''

The declaration was signed ''Ramon George Sneyd,'' the alias on the passport Ray used and the name under which he was held in Britain.

People who talked to Ray recently in Wandsworth Jail said he had been growing restless and tired of waiting after months on the run.

They said he consistently claimed he is innocent of the killing.

Other possible factors in Ray's decision were British refusal to continue free legal aid for his appeal and the fact that, in prepar for the trial in Memphis, he and Hanes could talk only in the presence of British prison officials.

Last week Ray wrote a brother in the United States telling him to arrange an advance payment to Hanes. Then he remarked: ''I could appeal my extradition hearing, but I am getting tired of listening to these liars and I might close it up about Tuesday.''

Ray's British lawyers knew about this letter and questioned him about his feelings. The ''liars'' he referred to apparently were the British police, who have quoted him as saying after his arrest, ''Oh, God, I feel so trapped.'' Ray denied saying anything like that.

Since his arrest, about a dozen Scotland Yard detectives have been tracing his movements in London.

Police informants said the detectives found no evidence here that Ray was involved in any conspiracy.

The detectives believe Ray arrived in London on May 7 from Toronto, left for Lisbon, Portugal, on the same day and returned to London on May 17. He was traced to three [illegible]

The investigation confirmed that Ray was trying to reach Africa, possibly to join a white mercenary unit or seek sanctuary in Rhodesia, which has no extradition agreement with the United States.

DG54ael July 17

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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Bulletin

LONDON (AP) — A British court today granted extradition of James Earl Ray, wanted in the United States as the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

LS942aed July2

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LONDON Ray A070 add Jr.

The extradition order was granted by Chief Magistrate Frank Milton.

Legal sources said Ray would appeal the decision.

LS940aed July2

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A037

LONDON (AP) 2nd lead A036 adds continuing, 190

In summing up, Magistrate Milton said he found no difficulty in establishing that there was a prima facie case against Ray in King's murder.

"On this, on the verbal and affidavit evidence before me, there can be no doubt," he said.

Milton said no evidence had been produced in Ray's case to show it was not an individual act.

"All I know is that this accused man said he didn't do it," he said.

The magistrate also passed over the question of Ray's identification without difficulty. Ray was arrested in Britain on forged passport and illegal gun-carrying charges under the alias of Ramon George Sneyd.

But the magistrate said: "[illegible] evidence that James Earl Ray is the same person now before me."

Although Ray was granted legal aid to pursue an appeal if he wishes, there was no public announcement that he would.

However, lawyers close to the case said that an appeal would be carried to the High Court with arguments on the same political grounds as Milton rejected in magistrates court.

Should the High Court reject the appeal, Ray could go to the House of Lords, which is Britain's highest court.

But he could make an appeal to the Lords only on a point of law.

Shortly after 7th graf A036-A071.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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LONDON Ray 2nd Lead V067 [illegible]

At one point Milton said that if this were an English case he would commit it for trial at Old Bailey, Britain's central criminal court.

He said Ray would not be surrendered to U.S. authorities until after the expiration of 15 days. Ray has the right to apply for a writ of habeas corpus or other like procedure.

The extradition order against the 40-year-old prisoner was on two grounds—being a fugitive criminal accused of murder and a fugitive convicted of robbery.

This traced to his escape in April 1967 from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, where he was starting his eighth year of a 20-year sentence for armed robbery.

Two British charges on which Ray was arrested at London Airport June 8—having a forged Canadian passport and an unlicensed gun—are due to come up next Tuesday. In view of the developments, they may be dropped.

Ray voiced a complaint about British officialdom in the final stage of the hearing. Shortly after the court had ordered an adjournment for lunch, Ray returned to make an unexpected statement.

[illegible] 2nd Lead V068-V071
[illegible] July 2

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Ray Bjt NL 500
By LAWRENCE MALKIN
Associated Press Writer

LONDON AP - U.S. officials stood ready Thursday night to receive James Earl Ray from British custody and fly him to the United States to face trial on charges of assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A U.S. plane was said to be standing by at Northolt, the closest Royal Air Force base to London capable of handling jets that can cross the Atlantic.

The plane was expected to take off at night so as to land at night, probably at Memphis, Tenn., where King was shot to death April 4.

American officials kept the tightest security screen in front of Ray's transfer. Tedy refused a request by his lawyer, Arthur Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., to accompany Ray home or even to speak to him once he is in U.S. custody in Britain.

Hanes said U.S. officials refused to give him an explanation of their refusal. But he made it clear that Ray feared U.S. officials would try to interrogate him during the seven- or eight-hour jet flight about circumstances surrounding King's assassination, possibly raising questions about any conspiracy.

''I just told him to keep his mouth shut,'' Hanes said.

British courts Thursday cleared away the last of the formalities that have prevented Ray's transfer to the United States since his arrest in London June 8.

Following Ray's decision earlier this week to abandon his fight against extradition, a lawyer representing the director of public prosecutions went into Bow Street Magistrates Court.

He said no evidence would be offered to support British charges against Ray of entering the country on a forged passport and carrying an unlicensed gun. That was the last step before Home Secretary James Callaghan could sign the extradition papers.

The Home Office announced Callaghan signed the order Thursday night.

This order authorized the transfer of Ray to the custody of U.S. marshals.

Ray was not in court for the hearing. Hanes was conferring with him at Wandsworth Prison.

''I gave him some new shirts and a tie so he would look sharp,'' the said.

Hanes was being kept completely in the dark about the flight.

''I don't know if they are taking him back by Wells Fargo, or ship or yellow submarine,'' the lawyer told newsmen.

He said he might make a legal issue of it at the trial, basing his argument on new U.S. Supreme Court rulings about holding a suspect in custody without permitting him to consult a lawyer.

''I don't see any justification logically for them to prevent me from seeing him,'' he said. ''But I have a right to see him in private when he is turned over to U.S. authorities. He has fears of intensive interrogation and grilling by Justice Department agents. They will have him captive for seven or eight hours and they can engage him in conversation.''

Hanes said he had formally requested the U.S. Justice Department for permission to accompany Ray home when he called Washington from his office in Birmingham Tuesday morning to tell the department about Ray's extradition waiver.

He told newsmen a message was passed on to him through the U.S. Embassy here from Fred Vinson Jr., U.S. assistant attorney general, saying: ''I hope you understand why you cannot accompany this man to the United States and why you cannot see him in private.''

Hanes said he replied: ''My answer is: No, I do not understand.''

Hanes said he would return to the United States as soon as he had word that Ray was on the way and begin preparations for the trial, which he expects to open in October or November.

TKS1sped July 18

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